

Casey 'directed' contra aid effort

LOS ANGELES (R) — Former CIA director William Casey personally directed efforts by White House aide Oliver North to aid the Nicaraguan "contra" during the two years Congress banned U.S. military assistance to the rebels, the Los Angeles Times said Saturday. In a report from Washington quoting unidentified administration officials and former North associates, the newspaper said Casey supervised Lieutenant Colonel North's secret programme to place U.S. military trainers in contra camps in Honduras, lent Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) staff and equipment to the training scheme and gave Col. North advice on how to evade congressional restrictions. The newspaper said the reports suggested for the first time Mr. Casey, who resigned last month because of a brain tumour, was acting outside his formal capacity as CIA director. Col. North was later dismissed as a White House aide. The newspaper quoted Senator David Boren, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, as saying he did not think it was mainly a CIA operation. "I tend to think it was Bill Casey as an individual. I think he really wanted to keep the skirts of his agency very clean," Boren said.

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Israel and European states cited in U.S. arms report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House will report to Congress next week that Israel and several European allies have ignored a 1977 United Nations ban on selling weapons to South Africa, according to a published report. The administration report names France, Britain, West Germany, Italy and Switzerland as sellers of arms to South Africa, said the Washington Post, quoting unidentified administration sources in its Saturday edition. All except Switzerland are members of NATO.

PLO says Hizbollah holding Waite

HAMBURG (AP) — A top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted on Saturday as saying that the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group is holding Anglican church envoy Terry Waite in Beirut. Salah Khalaf, the PLO security chief and a close aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was quoted as saying that Mr. Waite was currently being held in Beirut, the Lebanese capital. In an interview with the West German newspaper Der Spiegel, Mr. Khalaf was quoted as saying that Hizbollah was holding Mr. Waite because it believed he was an agent for the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Shamir faces Herut crisis today

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir faces a stiff challenge Sunday at a party convention that could weaken his leadership of Israel's coalition government. Mr. Shamir, 71, has staked his prestige in an effort to unify the Herut (freedom) movement, the main party in the governing right-wing Likud alliance. Herut has badly splintered since the resignation four years ago of its founder, Menachem Begin. Its last convention, held last year, broke up in fist fights. Israelis of North African and Asian origin are battling for control of Herut, which was founded by European Jews in the 1940s.

Khomeini tells superpowers to change thinking

LONDON (R) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, told the superpowers on Saturday they could no longer threaten other countries. "You ... should change yourselves and your thinking," Ayatollah Khomeini told them in an address to visitors at his residence in Tehran. His remarks were carried by the Iranian national news agency IRNA. "Today it is not possible, as in the past, to change the situation through dictatorship and propaganda... so that you (the superpowers) would bow before you, hands folded," IRNA quoted Ayatollah Khomeini as saying.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يوم السبت 29 رجب 1407 هـ عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Carbomb kills 8 near Syrian HQ in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb blast near Syria's military headquarters in west Beirut killed eight people on Saturday in the gravest challenge yet to a month-old Syrian security drive.

Police said that in addition to the eight deaths at least eight people were wounded.

The bomb, detonated 100 metres from the heavily guarded, eight-storey Syrian base, was the biggest in west Beirut since 7,000 Syrian troops deployed there on Feb. 22.

A Syrian military source told the local "International News Agency" no Syrians were among the casualties. "These criminal acts will not undermine the security drive... those behind them will receive the most severe punishment," the agency quoted the Syrian source as saying.

In north Lebanon, police said a Syrian officer was killed and five soldiers wounded when their military vehicle was attacked and set on fire.

They said a rocket-propelled grenade hit the vehicle as it passed through Kfar Haziq village in the Syrian-controlled Koutra district some 15 kilometres from the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

Syria, the main power-broker

in Lebanon, has about 25,000 troops in north and east Lebanon and in west Beirut.

Syrian troops in west Beirut on Thursday killed three men who fired a grenade at them and a series of small blasts have rocked the mainly western sector in the past two weeks.

Saturday's car bomb exploded on the seafront promenade and most of the casualties were strollers, coffee vendors or motorists who crowd the Ramlet Al Baida area on weekends, police said.

Witnesses quoted by news agencies said the powerful blast sent a huge cloud of black smoke in the air, set many cars and coffee vendor vans ablaze and shattered windows in the Syrian headquarters.

"Pieces of charred human bodies were scattered along the road up to a distance of 300 metres," Lebanese police explosives expert Mahmoud Khashab said, adding that windows were smashed up to 400 metres away.

Syrians in cars ferried casualties to a nearby hospital firing

machine-guns in the air to clear a path through traffic.

Angry Syrian troops brandishing assault rifles barred reporters from approaching the scene. Film was confiscated, four photographers were beaten up and one, struck by rifle, had his mouth cut open.

A police spokesman said two people were killed in a Renault car parked next to the bomb car. Two small bombs exploded at garbage dumps in west Beirut's Sanayeh district before dawn, shattering windows but causing no casualties.

The car bomb, a BMW Sedan packed with an estimated 75 kilograms of "heavy explosives," detonated at 8:20 a.m. (0620 GMT), police said. The blast set seven other autos on fire.

The powerful blast hurled the BMW about 10 metres and left a 5-metre-wide hole on the seaside boulevard, police said.

After the garbage dump explosions Saturday, Syrian special forces troops deployed throughout west Beirut to set up scores of checkpoints and were seen frisking motorists and pedestrians.

Saturday's explosions raised the number of bombings in west Beirut since the Syrian military intervention to 15.

Two sextuplets die 24 hours after birth

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two of the sextuplets born in Amman on Friday died on Saturday, and a spokeswoman for the Al Amal Maternity Hospital in Jabal Hussein said that the two baby girls who died had only a very slim chance of living from the moment they were born.

The spokeswoman told the Jordan Times that the other four babies — one male and three females — are in a stable condition inside incubators where they were placed following the delivery by Caesarean section after a six and a half month pregnancy. The doctors and specialists su-

pervising the progress of the babies plan to keep the remaining four babies in their incubators until they are fully grown at ninth months, the spokeswoman added. She said that the mother's health was fine but refused to reveal her identity or that of the father upon the family's own request.

According to Dr. Maher Al Sarraf, the gynaecologist who supervised the delivery, the birth of the six babies was the first such instance ever recorded in Jordan. Such cases happen only once in every three million births, Dr.



Sarraf said. The babies' weights ranged between 700 and 900 grammes each

and the two died Saturday were described earlier to be in critical condition.

Carter backs PLO and Soviet peace roles

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Saturday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should participate in an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Carter added he "would not object" to Soviet participation in such a conference, although he said he was uncertain if the Reagan administration would agree.

Asked if the PLO should be a participant in an international conference, Mr. Carter said: "I would hope so, yes." He said that the "PLO and other Palestinian representatives" should be included in any peace negotiations.

Israel has refused to negotiate with the PLO, and has said that Soviet participation in an international conference is dependent upon the resumption of diplomatic ties with Moscow.

The Soviet Union severed relations with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

"I can't speak for the Palestinians and I'm not sure who can," Mr. Carter told reporters. "I presume most Palestinians would just say that the PLO speaks for them... who should be the actual

negotiators is not for me to say." The former president's statements came during a tour of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, during which he met with Mayor Elias Freij.

Mr. Carter said he found support for an international conference among the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian leaders with whom he met during his current visit which began in Algeria and covered Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

"The Arab leaders in Syria, Jordan and Egypt are quite ready now to be full partners in the peace process, under the framework of an international conference," Mr. Carter said.

He said such a conference would provide "adequate opportunity for direct negotiations over matters concerning Lebanon, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza (Strip) and Palestinian rights."

Mr. Carter repeated that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was willing to talk directly with Israel "within the framework of an international conference."

He said the Syrian president expressed "a willingness to discuss matters such as, for example,

the Golan Heights, directly with Israel."

On Friday, Mr. Carter was quoted as telling leading Palestinian journalists at a meeting in East Jerusalem that the U.S. government should "move to correct longstanding omissions" in dealing with the Palestinian question.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) quoted Mr. Carter as saying the U.S. government should advocate "an international conference within which either PLO representatives themselves or their designates should speak for the Palestinian people."

It quoted Mr. Carter as saying the 1979 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, which provide for Palestinian representation by either Jordan or Egypt, are "obviously not adequate for the future."

Mr. Carter said his "own personal preference" was not for an independent Palestinian state, but added "this is a judgement for the Palestinian people to make," the PPS reported.

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Carter toured the West Bank city of Hebron, accompanied by his wife Rosalynn and Morris Draper, the

U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem. Mr. Carter also met with a Palestinian family in their one-room house in the village of Beit Omar in the occupied West Bank.

A diplomatic official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Carter "wanted to meet an average Palestinian family."

Commenting on the situation in the occupied territories, Mr. Carter said he believed peace negotiations were the only way to end the tensions in Hebron, other parts of the West Bank and the occupied Gaza Strip.

"There is a lot of animosity, the holy places are full of weapons and it is obvious that they (the Palestinians) are living under very unpleasant circumstances," Mr. Carter said.

"The best approach to stopping this tension, hatred and violence is in a genuine search for peace," he added.

During a Carter visit to the West Bank four years ago Palestinians staged violent protests against him for helping to forge the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. On Saturday they lined the streets to greet him.

China and Israel hold first formal meeting at U.N.

PEKING (Agencies) — China announced Friday that its representative met a senior Israeli official at the United Nations on Friday, amid increased Israeli efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Peking.

Israeli sources, anticipating the talks, said Friday it would apparently be the first openly acknowledged meeting between representatives of the two states.

The New China News Agency in a despatch from the United Nations in New York said its permanent representative Li Luyue had met Abraham Tamir, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that his country was making efforts to establish diplomatic relations with China.

The agency said the two representatives had discussed the Middle East. China had repeated its support for an international peace conference under U.N. auspices and with participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the agency said.

China is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and a potential participant in any international Middle East peace conference.

Israel, whose leaders are divided about whether such a conference should be held, has said neither China nor the Soviet Union should take part in the peace talks as long as they have no diplomatic ties with Israel.

The agency said Israel had asked to meet representatives of each of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — China, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The Li-Tamir meeting "was in a U.N. context rather than a bilateral context, and one of a series of meetings being held with members of the Security Council," Israeli U.N. spokesman Eyal Arad said.

8 killed in Iranian attack on Singapore-flag vessel in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Eight crew, including the Indian captain, were killed on Saturday when a small Singapore-flag vessel was hit and set ablaze in an Iranian attack in the southern Gulf, regional shipping and police sources quoted by news agencies said.

They said one crewman was missing and three survivors were picked up at sea after the overnight attack on the Sedra, a bunkering supply vessel, some 10 miles off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast.

The identity of the survivors was not immediately known. Some 20 merchant ships, mainly tankers, have been hit in the waterway so far this year by Iran and Iraq, at war since September 1980.

An addition to the captain, Arthur Ghosh, 43, the Sedra's 12-man crew included eight South Koreans, two Singaporeans and a

Malaysian, shipping sources in Dubai told Reuters.

They named three other dead as First Officer Lim Hae Yun of Malaysia, 37, Second Officer Ahmad Badar, 34, and cook Abdul Aziz, 41, both Singapore nationals.

In London, Lloyds shipping intelligence service said the Sedra — earlier identified as the Sedra I, a tanker vessel — had left Kuwait for Singapore on Wednesday and was now anchored off Dubai, in the UAE. Details of its tonnage were not available.

A UAE police official said three survivors were picked up off Umm Al Quwain, one of seven emirates making up the UAE.

Two who were uninjured were being held at Umm Al Quwain police station pending immigration clearance. The third survivor was admitted

to hospital in Dubai with burns to the face, arms and legs, hospital officials said.

Lloyds said the Sedra had been intercepted by an Iranian warship six hours before the missile attack.

Iranian gunboats regularly attack merchant vessels with Italian-made Seakiller anti-ship missiles in the Gulf's southern waters in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes against Iranian tankers in the northern end of the waterway.

The Iranians have attacked a dozen vessels owned by Kuwait or carrying cargoes to Kuwait since September.

The Iranians began using gunboats for their attacks in September, often intercepting vessels first to identify them before launching missiles.

Until then, the Iranians used mainly fighter-bombers or helicopter gunships to attack ships in the Gulf.

Italy's Communist speaker begins political consultations

ROME (AP) — Nilde Jotti, the Communist speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, on Saturday began sounding out political leaders on whether a new coalition can be fashioned to avoid general elections a year ahead of schedule.

Ms. Jotti on Friday received from President Francesco Cossiga an "exploratory mandate" to consult party leaders and report back to him on the possibility of forming a new cabinet. Ms. Jotti, 66, is the first Communist and first woman given such a role in postwar Italy.

Mr. Cossiga turned to the veteran legislator two days after Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, current foreign minister and five-time former premier, abandoned his effort to resurrect the five-party coalition which collapsed March 3 with the resignation of Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi.

The mandate does not give Ms. Jotti the power to try to put

together a government herself. Presidential palace officials stressed that her only task is to determine if there is room for a broad political accord for a majority coalition.

Ms. Jotti first met with Mr. Craxi. Both refused to discuss details of their hour-long discussion.

Politicians emphasised that Ms. Jotti's appointment should not be seen as raising the possibility of fashioning a government with Communist participation or parliamentary support.

The Communists, Italy's second largest party and the biggest Communist party in the West, have been excluded from the government since 1947.

If she fails to break the deadlock, Mr. Cossiga is expected to call parliamentary elections in May or June, a year ahead of schedule. Paolo Battistuzzi, a Liberal Party legislator, said the differences among the coalition partners have become "insurmountable."

Tunisian aide denounces Iran's links with Israel

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Mabrouk was quoted Saturday as denouncing Iran's links with Israel and its insistence to continue the war against Iraq.

The Iranian attitude represented a catastrophe for the Islamic countries, Mr. Mabrouk said in an interview with Iraq's Al Jumhuriya newspaper. The interview was reported by Iraq's official Iraqi News Agency (INA), which is monitored in Nicosia.

The interview was published two days after Tunisia broke off diplomatic relations with Iran, saying the Iranian embassy in Tunis was a base for recruiting extremists abroad for subversive activities.

Mr. Mabrouk was quoted as saying that the uncovering of the scandal of the secret supply of U.S. weapons to Iran via Israel also unveiled Iran's contradictory attitudes.

"Iran announces on the one hand that it intends to liberate Al Qods (Jerusalem), and on the other hand it receives arms from the Zionists... the Iranian rulers cooperation with the Zionists is contradictory to Islamic values, a thing which cannot be accepted," he was quoted as adding.

Arab states were required to support Iraq in the war against Iran and other world states should pressure Iran to end the war because Iraq's case was a just one, Mr. Mabrouk was quoted as saying.

tion, and justice will be pronounced."

Premier Rachid Sfar said Thursday that Tunisia decided to break relations with Iran after a meeting of the nation's top officials to study "the implications and breadth of the suspect activities at the Iranian embassy in Tunis."

In Tehran Friday, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced Tunisia's decision to sever ties as "irrational and baseless," prompted by certain world powers whose "illegitimate interests" were threatened by Tunisia's Muslims.

Tunisia's breaking of relations with Iran coincided with unconfirmed reports in Paris that eight people arrested by French authorities on terrorism-related charges had links with the Iranian regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Six of the eight are Tunisians.

The Tunisian spokesman claimed one of the eight, Fouad Ali Salahi, had made several visits to the Iranian holy city of Qom and travelled often to Paris for meetings at the Iranian embassy there where he received instructions for "specific missions."

The Iranian embassy in Tunis was used as a contact point for the pro-Khomeini network, according to the spokesman. He said the embassy also circulated publications banned in Tunisia, such as the Iranian review *Achid* (the martyr).

"It is clear that these Khomeinists use religion as a cover to destabilize the republican regime," the spokesman said. "The affair is under investigation."

U.S. probes into Israeli spy disclosure

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A U.S. senator's claim that U.S. intelligence agents used an Israeli military officer as a spy in the early 1980s is being investigated by the Senate Ethics Committee as a possible unauthorized disclosure of classified information, the New York Times reported Saturday.

It said Senator Dave Durenberger made the statement last week to two Jewish groups in what he described as an effort to add perspective to the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, a U.S. intelligence official sentenced recently to life in prison for spying for Israel.

The paper quoted unnamed congressional sources as saying the statement prompted complaints from the Reagan administration and several fellow senators because the information was classified.

It said Sen. Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, told the two groups that William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), "changed the rules" by authorizing a spy operation against Israel after its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday Israel had no intention to transfer protocols of its self-appointed probe into the Pollard spy affair despite promised cooperation with the United States.

"We did not plan to transfer the protocols of the commission of inquiry to any other element, be it foreign or not foreign. And nobody is demanding that from us," Shamir said in an interview with Israel Army Radio.

On Wednesday, the Israeli government released an announcement promising to guard "the secrecy of the testimony given to the investigatory commission examining the Pollard affair and the witnesses' rights in the matter."

The future of government-appointed investigatory board was thrown into doubt when a lawyer for three key Israeli witnesses, David Libai, advised them not to appear because their testimony could be used against them in an American court if Israel handed over the information.

Yehoshua Rotenshtreich, head of the two-member commission, said he would resign if he was not able to question all the relevant witnesses in the Pollard spy case.

An American Jew Jonathan Jay Pollard, 32, was sentenced to life in prison this month for selling Israel classified U.S. military documents.

Shamir said "the pressure of lawyer (David) Libai was not necessary. But since he insisted on that, and since we were interested to allow the commission to continue its work, we announced that (we will not transfer the protocols)," he said.

U.N. urges Greece, Turkey to exercise restraint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has urged Greece and Turkey to exercise maximum restraint in the crisis over oil drilling rights in the Aegean Sea.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's comment came after Greek U.N. representative Mihalis Dountas told him in a letter that the dispute was "of strictly legal nature" and could be settled through impartial adjudication.

Greece has called on Turkey to accept a Greek proposal to have the matter settled by the International Court of Justice at the Hague. Turkey has said Greece

has set preconditions that are unacceptable.

In a brief statement Friday, U.N. Press Secretary Francois Guiliani said: "The secretary general has followed today's developments relating to the Aegean with growing concern. He appeals to the leaders of Greece and Turkey to exercise maximum restraint."

The crisis developed when Turkey announced its intention to explore the region for oil after Greece said it would begin drilling off its Thassos Island in the northern Aegean.

Neither side has asked for action by the U.N. Security Council,

which called on them to exercise "utmost restraint" during a parallel confrontation in 1976.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar and council members would remain on the alert throughout the weekend, officials said.

Mr. Dountas's letter harked back to the 1976 resolution, noting that it reminded the two states that the World Court was qualified to help settle "any remaining legal differences which they may identify in connection with their present dispute."

The Greek delegate said that even before the Council's decision, Athens proposed to refer the dispute to the court for a

compromise. Mr. Dountas said the proposal was to "submit the question of the delimitation of the continental shelf" to the court on the basis of "conventional and customary international law."

He accused Turkey of having continuously reversed its position and of manoeuvring. This, he said, made it clear that Turkey's aim was not the delimitation of the shelf but its partitioning on the basis that islands have no continental shelf of their own.

He said that Greece was ready to enter negotiations immediately.

Tower Commission goes out of business

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Tower Commission, created by President Ronald Reagan to investigate the Iran-contra affair, has wound up its business and turned its files over to the White House.

Under terms of the executive order by which Mr. Reagan created the commission in November,

its mandate expired 30 days after it made its report to the president. The report was submitted on Feb. 26.

"All Tower Commission files have been put in five safes and are being turned over to the White House counsel," commission spokesman John Kowal said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the files would be made available to other investigators as requested.

The secret arms sales to Iran, and the diversion of funds to aid Nicaraguan rebels, is being investigated by an independent counsel and by committees of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Egypt starts urgent arms airlift to Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is urgently airlifting large quantities of arms and ammunition to neighbouring Sudan, Egyptian military sources said Saturday.

The sources would not specify the type of weapons being shipped but said large quantities were being loaded onto transport planes for urgent delivery to Sudan.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi this week accused Libyan troops of launching attacks against Chad from Sudanese territory and demanded their withdrawal. Libya denied it had troops in Sudan.

Under a 1977 defence agreement, Egypt and Sudan can provide military support to each other in the event of a threat to their security.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency MENA in a report from Khartoum quoted Sudanese Interior Minister Sidahmad Al Hussein as calling for the immediate withdrawal of Libyan troops from western Sudan.

"The province of Dharfur has become a dangerous arena for foreign intervention because of the presence of Libyan troops on Sudanese territory," MENA quoted Mr. Hussein as saying.

In a separate development, Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported Friday that Sudanese army troops killed 321 southern rebels during a clash near the Ethiopian border on Wednesday.

It quoted an army general command source as saying five government troops were killed and 28 injured in the battle at Jokan, a border town in Upper Nile region of southern Sudan.

Ethiopian-backed rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting troops in south Sudan since 1983 for greater autonomy for the south.

Chad claims capture of Faya-Largeau

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — The Chadian army says its troops have ousted Libyan forces from a crucial stronghold, the northern oasis of Faya-Largeau.

There was no independent confirmation of the report issued Friday by army high command. But if its report is true, it would be the second serious defeat of Libyan troops in northern Chad in the past week.

Faya-Largeau, the capital of northern Chad, served as headquarters of Libyan forces supporting rebels battling Chad's president, Hissene Habre.

According to the command, Faya-Largeau was the last Libyan stronghold south of the Tibesti Mountains and the Aouzou border strip Libya has long claimed

as its territory.

On Sunday, the government said its forces seized the Libyan airfield at Ouadi Doum and Libyan forces were withdrawing from Faya-Largeau in disorder.

It also said more than 2,000 Libyans were killed in fighting last week, not including the battle for Faya-Largeau, but gave no figure for government casualties.

The high command said a casualty report from the Faya-Largeau battle would be released later.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Friday congratulated Mr. Habre, a State Department spokeswoman in Washington said. The United States has backed Mr. Habre's government with military equipment and technical

advisers.

France has an estimated 2,000 soldiers in southern Chad. French and U.S. sources estimate there are up to 10,000 Libyan military personnel in northern Chad.

In another development, a newspaper in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, said Chadian warplanes attacked Libyan forces that had entered western Sudan illegally and killed more than 100 Libyans. Sudan is east of Chad and south east of Libya.

The independent newspaper Al Ayam said Friday that French-built Mirage warplanes carried out the air raid in the Kufus area near the Chad border. It did not say when the attack occurred.

U.S. announces arms sales to Riyadh

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department notified Congress on Friday that it had approved two new arms sale packages for Saudi Arabia, including 28 utility and attack helicopters and sophisticated radar-jamming gear for jet fighters.

The formal notification set the stage for what is expected to be a vigorous debate on Capitol Hill, where critics of President Ronald Reagan's Middle East policies and supporters of Israel have expressed uneasiness about the transfer of such sophisticated equipment to the Saudis.

By law, Congress will have 30 days to block the arms sales if it wishes to do so.

The Pentagon, in its formal notification, said the Reagan administration had approved two deals totalling \$725 million.

The larger package totals \$400 million and involves the sale of 12 UH-60 troop-carrying helicopters; one "Vip" Blackhawk for use by officials; 15 Bell 406 choppers outfitted as helicopter gunships with 7.62mm guns and anti-tank rockets, and one C-12 cargo plane.

The second deal totals \$325 million and involves the sale of 95 electronic counter-measure systems, or radar-jamming gear, for outfitting on U.S.-made F-5 and F-15 jet fighters already in the Saudi inventory.

The sales "will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability in the Middle East," the Pentagon said in a statement.

government from applying now.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Headline 16:30 Children programme 16:35 A Whole World of Children 17:00 Give Me a Break 17:30 World Alive 18:15 Local Agricultural Programme 18:40 Local Series 19:00 Local Programme 19:30 Programme Review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 A documentary on the Gaza Strip 21:05 Tomorrow's programmes 21:05 Arabic film 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Film continued PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 Julien Fontaines 19:00 News in French 19:15 French varieties 19:40 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Gaza Gheto - A documentary on the Gaza Strip 22:00 News in English 22:30 Springfield's Daughter RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 850 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:30 Pop Session 11:00 In Concert 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Talk 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session cont. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:15 Science Report 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Listener's Choice 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Jazz Hour 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Evening Show continued		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * The Italian embassy presents an exhibition entitled "Flaminio, on the Past: The Rome Project" at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 29). * A plastic arts exhibition by Yarmouk University's painting club at the French Cultural Centre (until April 2). LECTURE * Dr. Arnold Koeber will give a lecture on Architecture and Cultural Identity at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Architecture, University of Jordan. PLAYS * "Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31). * An Arabic play from Bahrain at 8:00 p.m. daily at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31). CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre 644371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 630409 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 645195 Hussein Youth City 6671816 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 642251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 843555 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:00 Agaba (RJ) 09:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:25 Jeddah (RJ) 10:00 Kuwait (RJ) 10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:40 Athens (RJ) 18:05 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 18:35 London, Geneva (RJ) 19:00 Paris (RJ) 19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 01:00 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02:25 Bucharest (RJ) 09:00 Berlin, Larasica (RJ) 11:30 Cairo (RJ) 11:45 Kuwait (RJ) 12:30 Baghdad (RJ) 12:30 Jeddah (RJ) 12:30 Muscat, Bahrain (RJ) 14:00 Kuwait (RJ) 14:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:35 Athens, Damascus (RJ) 19:10 Frankfurt (RJ) 23:45 London, Cairo (RJ) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Agaba (RJ) 10:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 Athens (RJ) 11:30 Cairo (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 21:00 Jeddah (RJ) 21:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 21:15 Damascus (RJ) 21:15 Cairo (RJ) 22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 22:00 Bangkok (RJ)		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 03:25 Bucharest (RJ) 06:20 Frankfurt (RJ) 06:30 Larasica, Amsterdam (RJ) 08:00 Damascus, Paris (RJ) 09:25 Damascus, Rome (RJ) 10:20 Larasica, Berlin (RJ) 12:20 Cairo (RJ) 13:00 Tripoli (RJ) 13:30 Baghdad (RJ) 14:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ) 14:00 Jeddah (RJ) 15:00 Kuwait (RJ) 15:00 Dubai (RJ) 20:00 Sam's (RJ) PRAYER TIMES 04:07 Fajr 05:26 (Sunrise) Dhuha 11:41 Dhuhr 15:11 Asr 17:51 Maghreb 19:14 Isha WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered rain, and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea. Min./max. temp. Amman 10 / 14 Agaba 10 / 25 Deserts 4 / 17 Jordan Valley 8 / 22 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Agaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Agaba 40 per cent. MONEY EXCHANGE Saturday rates Local selling rates in Sds Belgian franc 82.5 / 89.5 Dutch guilder 162.9 / 164.5 French franc 55.4 / 55.8 Italian lire 25.7 / 26 Japanese yen (for 100) 221 / 228.6 Swedish crown 52.5 / 52.9 Swiss franc 220.6 / 223 U.K. sterling pound 334.2 / 336.7 U.S. dollar 183.9 / 185.7		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 27125, 27131 Civil Defence Quarters 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630431 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 6209777 Police rescue 192, 61111, 63777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 6365814, 624885 Municipal water complaints 90 / 50 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 5330060 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81281372 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6428116 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 6424412 Jabel Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Samsan 664174 St. Joseph's Hospital 669131 University Hospital 64584565 Al-Mashar Hospital 6672719 The Islamic, Abadi 66612757 Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajir 7710123 Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126 Army, Madra 66111175 Queen Alia Hospital 60224050 Amal Hospital 674155 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Rashed Mawazi 894788 Dr. Youssef Hourani 625478 Salam Pharmacy 636790 Nephrology Pharmacy 726672 Saleh pharmacy 689556 Khalid pharmacy 778653 Firas pharmacy 661912 Hinnawi pharmacy 843575 Farwada pharmacy 787336 TAXIS: Al Wabla taxi 641833 Khalid taxi 664828 Bassam taxi 811857 Alhi taxi 817411 Hiyam taxi 841120 Balasemah taxi 841120 Balasemah taxi 770304 Mashhour taxi 896743 IRSD: Dr. Rashed Al Sa'ad 738771 Al Shura's pharmacy (—) Al Far pharmacy (—) ZARQA: Dr. Salah Safarini 987565 Abu Leil pharmacy (—) GENERAL Jordan Television 7731119 Radio Jordan 77411119 Ministry of Tourism 643311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower prices in Sds per kg. Apple (All kinds) 510 / 270 Banana 320 / 270 Banana (Mukhammar) 270 / 220 Beans 450 / 400 Broad beans 130 / 100 Broccoli 80 / 30 Cabbage 90 / 60 Carrot (yellow) 200 / 150 Cauliflower (yellow) 200 / 150 Cauliflower (white) 220 / 150 Cucumbers 150 / 100 Eggplant (small) 130 / 100 Eggplant (large) 130 / 100 Garlic (dry) 600 / 500 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 130 / 100 Marrow 140 / 100 Onion (dry) 150 / 120 Onion (green) 220 / 120 Orange (Abu Surra) 320 / 280 Orange (Shamouni) 230 / 180 Pepper (black) 280 / 200 Pepper (red) 450 / 400 Potato 250 / 200 Radish 130 / 100 Spinach 90 / 60 Tomatoes 170 / 100 Turnip 80 / 50									

NEWS IN BRIEF

PSD director graduates police officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali on Saturday attended a ceremony for the graduation of three groups of police officers and delivered a speech in which he urged the graduates to put into practice what they have learnt and to help develop police work in the country. The group took practical and theoretical studies in police work, cultural relations and military training. At the ceremony, Lt.-Gen. Majali distributed diplomas to the graduates and awards to those excelling in their performance.

Commercial deposits total JD 167.9m

AMMAN (Petra) — Deposits of Jordanian commercial banks at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) amounted to JD 167.903 million at the end of January 1987. A CBJ statistical bulletin said that of these deposits JD 102.9 million are compulsory deposits to be placed with the CBJ according to set regulations.

Governors discuss five-year plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Saturday held a meeting for provincial governors in the Amman region to discuss a number of administrative issues and the implementation of the five-year national development plan. The meeting at the governor's house in Amman discussed arrangements for holding a meeting for heads of committees in charge of the implementation of the national development plan in areas around the capital.

Princess Alia opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia on Saturday opened a charity bazaar at Al Nasr Sports Club for Women. The week-long bazaar displays children's books, paintings and traditional costumes, artificial flowers and embroideries. The proceeds of the bazaar will benefit needy people and poor students.

Klibi meets envoy to Tunisia

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Al Hassan Friday held a meeting with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi to discuss cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the Arab League. On Saturday Mr. Hassan held talks with the under-secretary of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry Tayyeb Al Sahbani on means of bolstering cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia.

Camp for the handicapped ends

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba spring camp for handicapped persons concluded in the port city on Saturday. The week-long camp involved the participation of 150 handicapped persons who took part in educational, cultural and social programmes. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

Mayor opens slaughterhouse in Sahab

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Saturday opened a slaughterhouse which will serve the towns of Sahab, Jweideh, Qweismeh, Khreibet Al Souq, Jawa and Taibeh. The slaughterhouse, which cost JD 90,000, is one of the projects carried out by the Greater Amman Municipality which groups these small towns. The ceremony was attended by members of the municipal council and other local officials as well as by members of the municipal council of Sahab where the slaughterhouse is situated.

Turkish-Greek crisis subsides

(Continued from page 1)

According to clause seven of the 1983 bases accord, Greece has the right to ask for suspension of operations at times when its national interests are threatened.

Roubatis told reporters the Sismic 1 had begun taking soundings in the Gulf of Saros but was keeping inside Turkish territorial waters.

"It seems that both the Sismic and the warships accompanying it are moving in such a way as to suggest that what (Turkish Prime Minister Turgut) Ozal said will possibly become reality," Roubatis said.

He was referring to a pledge by Mr. Ozal that the Sismic would not sail into disputed waters unless Greece did the same.

Mr. Papandreou said Friday the Greek armed forces would tackle the ship if it entered waters claimed by Greece.

Diplomats in Ankara said Turkey appeared to be stepping back from a confrontation with Greece in the Aegean after international pressure to defuse their dispute.

Mr. Papandreou on Saturday repeated an invitation to Turkey to take their long-standing dispute over the continental shelf to the international Court of Justice at The Hague.

Roubatis said: "The prime minister is calling on the Turkish government once again to accept a meeting to discuss the relevant documents over going to The Hague."

Conservative Greek opposition leader Constantine Mitsotakis told reporters he had suggested to Mr. Papandreou that he take up the mediation offer from Lord Carrington.

There was no official reaction in Ankara to the Greek call for taking the dispute to The Hague.

A senior Turkish official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters: "We were always ready to resolve the dispute by peaceful means. If Greece does not go beyond the six miles territorial waters in accordance with the Bern agreement then of course

we would not do anything beyond territorial waters."

Turkey has also not responded to Lord Carrington's mediation offer but has always said it wants bilateral talks under the Bern accord.

The latest confrontation follows plans by the Canadian-led consortium North Aegean Petroleum Company to drill for oil in international waters east of the island of Thassos on a licence issued by Greece which expires on April 1.

Greece's armed forces remained on alert Saturday, with combat aircraft and warships patrolling the northeast Aegean where the Sismic-1 had planned tests for oil off the Greek islands of Samothrace, Lemnos and Mytilene (Lesvos).

In line with the 1982 International Law of the Sea Treaty, Greece claims ownership of almost all Aegean seabed minerals on the grounds that all its 2,000-odd Aegean islands have continental shelves.

Turkey, which has not signed the treaty, claims that the eastern Greek islands are part of the Anatolian mainland continental shelf and that the minerals should be divided on the equity principle.

Mr. Papandreou told the cabinet on Friday that demarcation of the continental shelf was a legal issue and called on Turkey to accept the Greek proposal.

He has refused in the past to negotiate with Turkey unless Ankara recognises Greek rights in the Aegean and withdraws its troops from northern Cyprus.

Asked by reporters on Friday whether he would close down U.S. bases in the event of war with Turkey, Mr. Papandreou said: "Obviously, perhaps even before the war."

He said Greece would not discuss a new bases agreement or a fresh accord for operations of the Voice of America radio in Greece while Turkey had the green light to take actions "which contain a huge danger for Turkey, for Greece and the Balkans at least."



KING HONOURS BUSINESSMAN: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Mr. Taleh Darwazah, a prominent Jordanian businessman, to confer upon him the Medal of Independence of the First Order in appreciation of Mr. Darwazah's charitable deeds and his efforts in serving the Jordanian economy (Petra photo)

Prince Abdullah visits Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein on Saturday paid a visit to Mu'ta University near Karak where he met with the university's president, Dr. Ali Mahafza, and his assistants and commanders of the military and police faculties.

Prince Abdullah was briefed on the development of the university,

its courses and programmes and on its various military courses. The university was set up to give training to police and army officers who will later take up senior positions, Prince Abdullah was told.

Later, the Prince made a tour of the university's various installations and visited the laboratories, the library and the engineering workshops where he met with officials, staff and students.

He also visited the civilian wing of the university which includes five different academic faculties. These five faculties opened their doors for students at the start of the 1986-1987 academic year. A total of 300 students were admitted to these faculties this year.

IFAD official concludes 3-day visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vice President of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Moise Mensah wound up a three-day visit to Jordan on Saturday after talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian officials on means to further promote cooperation between the fund and the Kingdom.

According to a press release issued in Amman, Mr. Moise held separate meetings with Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud. The talks covered IFAD's contribution towards promoting the agriculture sector in the Kingdom, the release said.

The IFAD vice president was also received by director general of the Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC) Sami Shtaya and director general of the Jordan Cooperation Organisation Murewed Al Tal. Both sides reviewed IFAD support for agriculture-related projects in the Kingdom.

IFAD's assistance programme to Jordan has been drafted with a special emphasis on low income groups of farmers, according to the press release. It said that



Moise Mensah

Jordan recently received two IFAD loans for a total of \$22.6 million for the cooperative development of rainfed agriculture in Salt, Irbid, Jerash, Amman and Karak.

In a statement before his departure, Mr. Mensah said he was very impressed with the development of agriculture and its related projects in Jordan.

Mr. Mensah is Africa's candidate for the forthcoming election for the post of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) director general.

Pan-Arab committee opens discussions on solar energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is one of the foremost Arab countries to apply solar energy in industry and research work in accordance with specifications and standards set by a pan-Arab technical committee on solar energy and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has been a pioneer in solar energy research, according to Dr. Mahdi Hannounh, secretary general of the Arab Organisation of Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO).

Dr. Hannounh, who was addressing the opening session of the pan-Arab committee meeting in Amman, called on Arab states to cooperate among themselves

and with the committee in order to benefit from solar energy and its applications. Dr. Hannounh also outlined the importance of drawing up standards and specifications for solar energy equipment.

The participants in the three-day meeting will discuss issues related to solar power and specifications, solar heaters used for domestic purposes and other related subjects. Delegates from Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Morocco are taking part in the meeting, along with delegates from various Arab organisations.

A breath of spring colour and beauty — Japanese style

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Filling the Blue Room at the Royal Cultural Centre with the fragrance, colour and beauty of fresh spring flowers next Monday, will be the second annual exhibition of the Jordan Chapter of the Ikebana International. Participating with two or more of their own arrangements will be around 15 members of the chapter which together will provide a short-lived but gorgeous spectacle.

The Jordan Chapter of Ikebana International was established only two years ago by Mrs. Nakayama, the honorary president of the chapter and the wife of the Japanese Ambassador to Amman, and by Mrs. Hind Nasser, the chapter's president, with the idea that through art and flowers a better understanding between the two nations could be generated. Meeting once a month, the members have already learnt many of the techniques of this Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasises form and balance, their abilities given a further boost by an intensive four-day course given last summer by Mr. Minami, a visiting master in the Saja method. Until Mr. Minami returns next month to give another course, this time one for beginners and another for the more advanced students, Mrs. Nasser and Mrs. Diana Bdeir, delegated by Mr. Minami, will continue instructing the members in the art.

Like last year, the chapter during the opening of the exhibition will be honouring groups and individuals who have contributed to the life of flowers in Jordan. This year among those to be recognised will be Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for stimulating the home production of cut flowers, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh for the parks springing up all over the capital, the Amman Baccalaureate School for their landscaping and the Department of Forestry for their continued dedication to replanting trees all over the country.

Tickets for the opening at 5:30 p.m. are available at JD 2 from members of Ikebana International and from the ROC. The exhibition will remain open to the public and school parties for one day only.

Nominations close for JPA elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three nominees are running for the presidency of the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA), according to an announcement issued on Friday after the registration for nomination closed. Eighteen certified pharmacists are also seeking seats in the JPA's ten-seat council. Competing for the post of JPA president are Dr. Subhi Taibi, Mr. Tayseer Humsi and Mr. Husin Sedr.

Abdul Fattah Tubeishat, Tawfik Al Azzah, Abdul Rahim Ma'ayah, Usama Muraish, Munther Salameh, Tal'at Medanat, Ziad Mahadeen, Ahmad Sager and Mahmood Haj will be competing for the four seats allocated for pharmacy owners. One of the seats is allocated for the West Bank and was won by Mr. Nabeel Eideli.

The remaining three seats allocated for employed pharmacists and will be contested by Mohammad Atarah, Ziad Humus, Ali Jist, Yusuf Debe'i, Ntheer Hassan, Sa'id Meqdadi and Najah Ramahi. Ms. Ramahi is now the only female pharmacist seeking a seat on the council after her colleague Ms. Laila Badran withdrew her nomination last week.

IPA director returns from Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Director General Abdullah Elayyan returned to Amman on Saturday after taking part in the first conference on modern trends in administrative training and development in the Arab World, held in Cairo on Tuesday. Mr. Elayyan said that the two-day conference discussed topics related to the strategy of administrative development in the Arab World, human resources development, and technology transfer in the Arab World. He added that he submitted two working papers to the conference on Jordan's experience in the fields of administrative development and training programmes. Delegates from 11 Arab countries attended the conference.

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — At first sight, Aqaba does not look like a typical seaside holiday resort but its potential as a tourist attraction is by no means being fully exploited, according to Director of Planning of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Mohammad Balqar. He outlined the authority's plans for the development of the South Beach area in Aqaba until and beyond the year 2000.

The area to be developed extends from the Marine Research Station to the industrial port close to the Saudi border, a stretch of about eight kilometres in length. The South Beach Master Plan, which has recently been completed, aims at boosting both domestic and international tourism to Aqaba and Jordan in general. According to the present version of the plan, structures to be built or improved directly along the waterfront will be freely accessible public beaches with the necessary infrastructure, three reserves for coral reefs with controlled access, the national camp and the new Royal Diving Centre, in addition to the already well-established Marine Research Station with its own marine reserve. Later, possibly the decade from 1990 to 2000, the plan envisages three international hotels, which should be oriented towards high-class tourism with a corresponding setup, such as tennis courts, horse riding, golf course etc. These facilities will be situated in a large park nearby.

In addition to the existing marine station, which is devoted to research, a Sea Centre will be built to serve educational purposes with an aquarium, a marine museum and a lecture hall. East of the main road, Mr. Balqar continued, a number of residential areas as well as holiday accommodation of various styles are to be built within the coming 14 years. These include the Qaboos Village with 600 chalets to be sold or rented, a national youth camp with simple accommodation to be used by schools and educational institutions, accommodation for the users of the Diving Centre and comfortable holiday and residential villas near the area of the international hotels on the eastern side of the main road. Along the whole beach, restaurants and all the necessary services will be provided.

Soviet delegation continues discussions on Middle East issues, bilateral relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Saturday met with a delegation, led by Mr. Vladimir Orlov, from the Soviet praesidium, to discuss Middle East questions, Jordanian-Soviet relations and issues of common interest.

The delegation first met with Mr. Bahjat Talhoumi who is a member of the Upper House of Parliament and president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society. Mr. Talhoumi paid tribute to Soviet efforts to promoting the cause of world peace and said the Soviet Union has always sympathised with the Arab World and just Arab causes. The Soviet Union, he noted, also supported Jordan's call for convening an international conference on the Middle East for the sake of establishing a lasting peace in the region.

Mr. Talhoumi praised Moscow's relentless efforts for curbing the nuclear arms race and endeavours for preserving world peace. Jordan supports Moscow's call for eliminating nuclear arms and supports all efforts being made to keep the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, Mr. Talhoumi said.

Referring to Israel's nuclear programmes, Mr. Talhoumi said that the Jewish state scoffs at international laws and principles and continues to pursue its nuclear programme, and is seemingly determined to use nuclear weapons to threaten the Arab countries. The world's major powers should exercise pressure on Israel to force it to place its nuclear reactors under international supervision, Mr. Talhoumi added. He said that Israel has already launched raids on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and on Tunis and continues to launch acts of aggression on its immediate Arab neighbours as well. Mr. Talhoumi said that the Soviet delegation's visit offers a good chance for discussing further steps to bolster Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Orlov replied by praising the existing ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union and said his country will continue to extend support for the Arab people's just struggle. The Soviet Union regards Jordan's call for an international conference as a very positive move aimed at establishing a lasting peace in the region, he said. Several Upper and Lower House members were present at the meeting.

Later, Mr. Orlov and his accompanying delegation met with Mr. Rizk Al Bataineh, chair-

man of the Lower House's Foreign Relations Committee, who voiced the House's appreciation for Moscow's support of Arab rights. Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and its aggression on Arab countries constitute an obstacle in the Arab countries' efforts for social and economic development, Mr. Bataineh pointed out. He said that the world has come to realise that Israel is no more than a military base set up in this region to destabilise its security and peace, and for perpetuating regional conflicts which in turn serve the cause of world Zionism.

Mr. Bataineh referred to Israel's confiscation of Arab land and building of settlements on Arab-owned territory and said that Jordan will continue to work relentlessly to convene an international conference to establish peace.

Jordan appreciates the Soviet Union's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East problems and its support for Jordan's efforts to bring about a lasting peace to the region, Mr. Bataineh added. Mr. Bataineh urged the Soviet delegation to lend further support for the Arab parliamentary delegations at the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting due to be held in Nicaragua towards the end of April and which will discuss the issue of the proposed Middle East conference.

During the meeting both sides reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territory and Israel's inhuman treatment of Arab inhabitants under its rule. They also touched on nuclear issues and praised the Soviet Union's initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Orlov and his accompanying delegation were later received by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin who spoke about Jordan's stand regarding the Middle East question. Mr. Dudin referred to the situation in the occupied Arab territories and

said that the Jordanian government was concerned with supporting the steadfastness of the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and for this reason Jordan will implement a social and economic development plan. This plan is designed to serve the largest possible section of the Arab population living under Israeli rule, the minister pointed out.

Mr. Dudin spoke about his ministry's programmes for helping the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule and also Palestinian refugees in the East Bank in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Reviewing the current situation in the occupied Arab lands, Mr. Dudin said that the Israelis have established 195 settlements on Arab land confiscated from its lawful owners. The meeting was attended by Parliament members and senior officials from the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Visit to Madaba

Later on Saturday the Soviet delegation visited Madaba, some 30 kilometres to the north of Amman, which is famous for its mosaics. The delegation was briefed on the historical and archaeological importance of the city. They also visited various historical and archaeological sites in Madaba district governorate. Lower House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Ismail Hijazi, Parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair and the Soviet Ambassador in Amman Alexander Zinchuk accompanied the Soviet delegation on their visit.

News agency directors hold talks

The director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ali Al Safadi Saturday received Mr. Mikhail Loeve, the director general of the Soviet News Agency TASS who is currently visiting Jordan as a member of the Soviet delegation. They discussed scopes of joint cooperation and news exchange within the framework of an agreement signed between the two agencies in October 1984.



Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Saturday receives the Soviet delegation (Petra photo)

Regional authority plans wide range of tourist, recreational facilities in Aqaba

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — At first sight, Aqaba does not look like a typical seaside holiday resort but its potential as a tourist attraction is by no means being fully exploited, according to Director of Planning of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Mohammad Balqar. He outlined the authority's plans for the development of the South Beach area in Aqaba until and beyond the year 2000.

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trips to the Sinai by ferry boat to visit St. Catherine. In addition, it is planned to establish a new daily ferry service to Pharaon Island, where a castle dating back to the times of Salah-ed-Din and the Crusaders can be visited. No visas or exchange will be required from tourists for this trip by the Egyptian side.

The ARA's master plan time scope extends well into the next millennium, as Mr. Balqar explained, with most of the public investments expected to be implemented rather sooner than the private ones. Accordingly, the Royal Diving Centre is expected to be operating on a full scale within this season and the national camping site should be completed soon and open to the public. The improvement of the public beaches, also a public sector project, could as well start immediately, and the same is true for the housing projects and the national youth camp. These projects are scheduled for completion until the year 1990, according to Mr. Balqar.

During the following stage — until the year 2000 — the international hotels, the Sea Centre and the Beach Club should emerge, while other schemes are planned on a longer-term basis, for instance a marina at Al Yemeniah, not far from the Marine Science Station.

For package and individual tourists coming to Aqaba; the range of excursions, such as to Wadi Rum, Petra and Karak has recently been extended by return

Private investors

The main cornerstone for the implementation of the plan is seen in the attraction of private investors, Mr. Balqar said. The ARA favours a flexible approach in that it is open for suggestions and amendments of single projects, but they will not allow any changes in the overall landuse patterns devised by the plan, he added. A comprehensive strategy for the attraction of private investment, which they are optimistic will become rather profitable, is going to be developed by the ARA soon.

Protecting the environment

The protection of the coral reefs as unique marine environment along the South Beach is extremely important, as well as they are the raison d'être for many of the planned or existing facilities, for instance the Diving Centre, the Marine Science Station, or the Sea Centre. Therefore, the master plan includes three coral reserves, each chosen for its special richness and variety of species, located at the heads of bays. Access to them will be restricted, Mr. Balqar said. Most of the housing and hotel development will be east of the main road, and it is thought not to damage the environment, particularly the coral reefs, in any way, he concluded.

Jordan Times

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Reagan's "contra"-dictions

THE resignation of Fernando Chamorro from the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) marks another defection of Nicaraguan opposition leaders, and another blow to President Reagan's beleaguered Central American policy. Chamorro's defection follows the resignation of Arturo Cruz two weeks ago from UNO, an umbrella political group set up at the urging of the U.S. in 1985.

It seems that the two Nicaraguan leaders have become discouraged with the American-sponsored UNO and a bankrupt U.S. policy. While claiming to be protecting the countries in the region from Nicaraguan "aggression," the Reagan administration has shown little enthusiasm for the efforts of these countries at negotiations, known as the Contadora process. While claiming to be advancing democracy in Nicaragua, this same administration has been supporting a rebel group conspicuous for its human rights violations and the connection of many of its military leaders with the former Nicaraguan dictator Somoza's notorious national guard. With the defection of Cruz, the predominance of these people has been strengthened.

A recent initiative by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias offers hope of a negotiated end to the turmoil in the region. Last month, Mr. Arias proposed a ceasefire in all the region's civil wars, the ending of military assistance from outside powers, and the start of talks between Central American governments and the insurgency movements. This would be followed within two months by the initiation of negotiations to reduce armies in the region. The plan also requires countries in the region within the same two month period, to allow "complete freedom of television, radio, and the press," and moves toward "total party political pluralism."

This proposal has the support of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, in addition to Costa Rica. And, recently, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said he was interested in a dialogue with the other countries to discuss the plan.

An agreement along the lines of Mr. Arias' proposal would accomplish the goals which President Reagan claims to be pursuing by supporting the contras. While there is no guarantee that an agreement can be reached, and that full democracy can come to every country in Central America, the proposal certainly seems worth pursuing. With the U.S. Congress no longer willing to follow his lead and UNO dissolving before his eyes, President Reagan will have to reassess his Central American policy, whether he wants to or not. Perhaps he should follow the lead of the countries in the region which he claims to be "protecting." Even if the "red menace" from Nicaragua could threaten Hartington, Texas, as Mr. Reagan claimed in a speech last year, he will have to find another, more constructive way to deal with the "threat" from Nicaragua. Negotiations, anyone!

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel closes West Bank schools

THE Israeli authorities have ordered the closure of Al Najah and Bethlehem Universities and a number of schools in the West Bank for specific periods, between now and April 11. They did that out of fear that the students will stage anti-Israeli demonstrations on March 30 which marks the Land Day anniversary. In addition to the arbitrary measure, the Israelis continue their drive to transform the West Bank into a military fortress, ready to confront any eventuality on that day which reminds the Palestinian people of their adherence to the land and which serves as a reminder of the fact that the Israelis continue to occupy land which they took from the Arabs by force of arms. There is no doubt that despite the arbitrary measures, this great people of Palestine will continue to pursue the march towards liberation and will continue the struggle for freedom and the return of Arab land to its legitimate owners. As the Palestinian people continue their struggle, the Arab countries should rally behind them, extending to them all means of support and help. The Land Day anniversary also calls on all peace-loving peoples of the world to come to the help of the steadfast Arab people of Palestine who are facing injustice. This day should serve as a call on various world nations to refrain from helping the Israelis and stop supplying them with the means with which they can continue their occupation and arbitrary measures against the Arab people of Palestine.

Al Dustour: Israel tightens grip

ISRAEL'S information media is nowadays busy with means of propagating Zionist false claims about Tel Aviv's desire to achieve peace with Israel's neighbours. While Israel radio, television and the press keep bragging about this desire, Israeli troops tighten their hold on the West Bank and Israeli authorities close down educational institutions and detain Arab citizens. The Israelis have thus proved to the world which they are aiming to deceive, that they are not interested in real peace. They have produced no shred of evidence to prove otherwise, or to convince the world community of their desire for peace. Tightening the grip on the Arab territory, detaining Arab citizens and confiscating Arab-owned land is bound to expose the falsifications of the Zionists and reveal to the whole world Israel's true nature. In its drive to mislead world public opinion, Israel is recruiting a handful of Arab citizens for dialogues with the Israeli leaders to present a good image of Israel which has been imposing its arbitrary will on the Arab population. Through the staged dialogues, the Israelis hope to show the world that the Arabs are willing to hold direct negotiations with Israel which occupies their land. We are well-aware of the fact that Israel's real intention is to hold on to Arab land and to expand, at the expense of Arab countries. Therefore we would never be misled by the manoeuvres, and hope that Western nations would not be taken in by such false pretences.

Sawt Al Shaab: Tunis severs ties with Iran

TUNISIA has severed its diplomatic relations with Iran and announced that the latter's embassy in Tunis was involved in activities threatening the security and stability of the North African country. In fact Iran with its agents, planted everywhere, has been intent on threatening the whole Arab order and causing dissension and splits within the Arabs through its conspiracies and through sabotage activity and the creation of sectarian violence. Iran's attempts to create dissension and factional conflicts in Tunis were the latest in this affair, and constituted one more link in a long series of illegal actions exercised in Lebanon, the Gulf states, in Europe and other parts of the globe. Through its sabotage activity and conspiracies, Iran has succeeded in causing harm to and splits and dissensions among the Arab countries; and is now trying to stab Arab solidarity in the back. Therefore, we believe that Tunisia's decision to cut relations with Iran is bound to drive the latter into further isolation, and should be copied by other Arab countries, because Iran is not only involved in a war against Iraq but is also threatening other Arab countries.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Surplus estimated in 1986 balance of payments

THE Jordanian balance of payments for 1986 has not been issued yet. However the official pronouncements indicate that it would reflect a final surplus of JD 16 to 35 million, depending on the method used for measurement and the treatment of the "errors and omissions" item in the balance of payments.

A surplus, small as it may be, is of course far better than a deficit. A surplus would mean an improvement in favour of the banking and monetary sector in relation to the outside world and in terms of foreign currencies.

Available figures indicate that the foreign assets of the Jordanian banking system rose during 1986 to JD 822 million in foreign exchange, a gross increase of JD 40.5 million over 1985. At the same time the foreign liabilities of this system rose to JD 408 million, an increase of JD 24 million, thus giving rise to a net overall improvement in the order of JD16.5 million. This last figure, without errors and omissions, would be the final surplus of the balance of payments as measured by the changes taking place in the monetary sector.

However, this surplus would not be quite meaningful until its

causes and sources are determined. The final surplus would be a good indication of a healthy thriving economy only if such surplus was caused by a growth in national exports, a decline in foreign imports, a rise in the proceeds of external financial grants, an increase in the value of remittances of Jordanian expatriates abroad, or a drop in the transfers of guest workers. In contrast, it would not be the same if the final surplus was achieved simply by external borrowing beyond repayments of instalments. It is true that the proceeds of long term external loans are treated in the balance of payments on the credit side, but these funds have to be repaid with interest, while other sources of income are renewable and not refundable.

Therefore, before passing any judgment on the outcome of the balance of payments for 1986, we have to wait until the statement is finalised and published, to analyse the factors which contributed to the surplus.

The soundness of the economic and fiscal policies employed by the government during the past year could not be properly and

fairly measured by the final surplus of the balance of payments alone. It can be measured more appropriately by the changes in the outcome of the current account, which summarises the current transactions between Jordan and the rest of the world.

A balanced current account for Jordan is still a faraway, unrealistic target. The real test is the extent to which the government was able to reduce the huge deficit of JD 100 million sustained in 1985.

We do expect a healthier balance of payments for 1986. Not because there is a final surplus, as officials would hasten to say, but because it is meaningless if a surplus was achieved by heavy borrowing, as the capital account may soon reveal. We expect the improvement because the deficit in the current account will be reduced substantially.

The extent of reduction is the real test for the effectiveness of the economic policies adopted in 1986 and realistic measure of how far they have reached in bringing about the sought for adjustments, towards a more viable and sustainable balance of payments.

King Fahd's visit to Britain signals move away from U.S.

By Deborah Telford
Reuters

LONDON — The visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to London this week has highlighted efforts by Arab countries to strengthen ties with Europe following growing disenchantment with the United States' Middle East policies, analysts said.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab states are disillusioned with the United States over what they see as Washington's one-sided approach to the Arab-Israeli dispute and its secret sales of arms to Iran last year while it was publicly supporting Iraq in the Gulf war, the analysts said.

Patrick Seale, a British expert on Arab affairs, told the Reuters that Saudi Arabia was looking more to Britain and Europe for arms supplies which it has traditionally bought from the United States.

"The Saudis seem to be correcting their aim away from the U.S.," Seale said.

Saudi Arabia signed an agreement last year to buy 132 warplanes including 72 Tornados from Britain. Riyadh had originally wanted to buy F-15 jet fighters from the United States but opted for the British aircraft when it became clear that its

request would provoke an American political fight.

The £5 billion (\$7.9 billion) deal was Britain's biggest-ever sale of arms and it has been one of the main issues discussed by Saudi and British ministers during the king's visit.

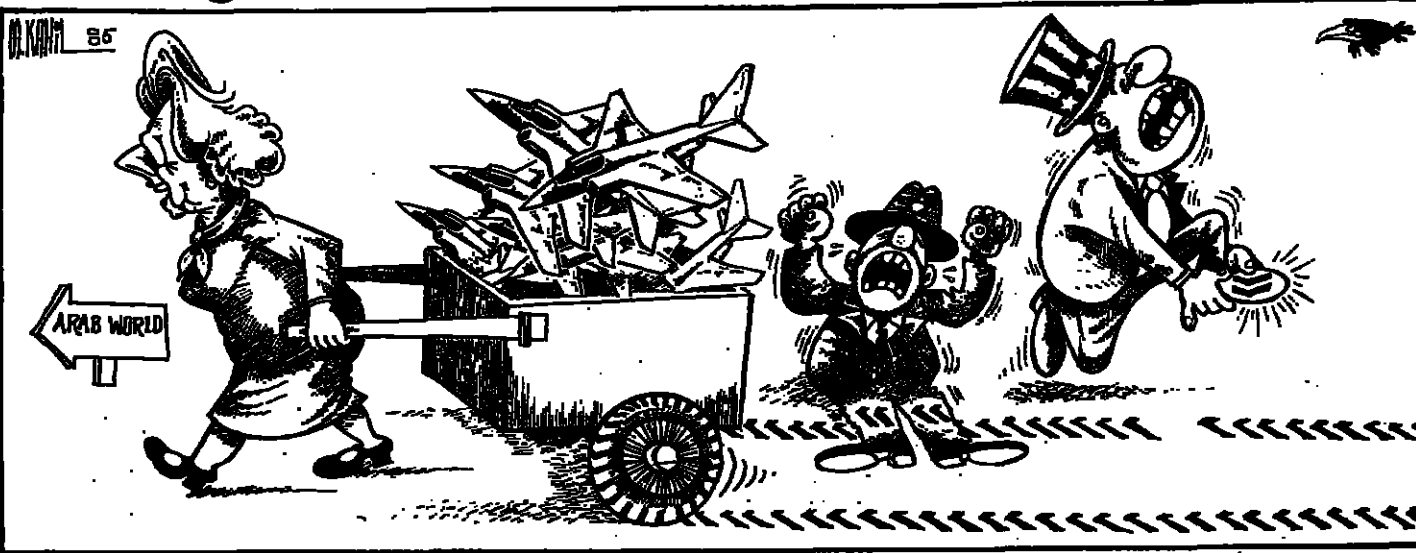
British officials said London might also supply Riyadh with £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) worth of submarines if the talks, aimed at ironing out payment problems and possible countertrade deals for Saudi Arabia, were successful.

Although Britain reaffirmed its support during King Fahd's visit for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, analysts said the king had expected Britain to push the Palestinian cause more vigorously.

In February, Britain and the Economic Community issued a statement saying they supported the idea of an international conference.

In his strongest remarks during the visit, King Fahd said at a state banquet in his honour on Tuesday that he looked forward to Britain "taking a more positive role in finding a just and comprehensive solution" to the Palestinian problem.

"Neither the familiarity of what he has to say, nor the elliptical



of courtesy with which he says it, should tempt the British government to give it any less weight," the Financial Times commented adding: "A warning note is being sounded." King Fahd was the author of a peace plan adopted by an Arab summit in Fez in 1982 which calls for an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Saudi Arabia also feels Britain had been too quick to follow Israel in branding Syria a "terrorist" state following the trial of

Nezar Hindawi last autumn, Seale said.

Britain broke off diplomatic ties with Damascus last October following trial evidence that Syrian agents were behind a plan to blow up an Israeli airliner after it left London.

"The Saudi view, which is widely shared in the Arab World, is that evidence linking the Syrian government with the Hindawi case is too fragile to justify Britain's refusal to restore ties," Seale said.

Exile issue embarrasses Pinochet ahead of Pope visit

By Richard Waddington
Reuters

SANTIAGO — The daring return from exile of a former minister in the government of Salvador Allende has created fresh embarrassment for President Augusto Pinochet just days before Pope John Paul II visits Chile.

Claudio Almeyda, a former foreign minister, surrendered to a Santiago court on Tuesday after sneaking into the country in defiance of a government order banning his return.

The appearance of Almeyda, one of Chile's most prominent leftists, gave impetus to a debate which the military government sought to defuse — exiling political opponents.

His return also coincided with the presence in Santiago of the U.N.'s special representative on human rights in Chile, Fernando Volio, whose reports called for an end to exile.

The system of exile has long featured prominently in international criticism of the Pinochet government's human rights record.

Over the past few months the government has eased prohibitions on the return of some 2,000 political exiles, reducing the number still banned to about 1,400.

The move was seen by diplomats as an attempt to deflect criticism ahead of the arrival of the Pope, who has often spoken out against systems of exile.

John Paul, who begins a five-day visit to Chile on April 1, met a group of 150 political exiles in Rome on March 25 in what a leading Chilean bishop on Tuesday called the symbolic start of his tour.

"It is profoundly embarrassing for the government... Almeyda has called their bluff," said one Western diplomat.

The government insists that some of its exiled opponents — those considered a danger to national security — will never be permitted to return to Chile.

The diplomats said there was little doubt that Almeyda was seen as one of those.

By coming back, Almeyda has switched the political focus away from what the government has done to resolve the issue to the fact its solution was heavily qualified, they said.

The 65-year-old Almeyda, who leads a far-left faction of divided Socialist Party, once headed by Allende, was arrested following the 1973 coup and held for several months in the notorious Dawson island camp in the far south.

Since being expelled in February 1975, he has become one of the leading figures abroad in political opposition to the military government.

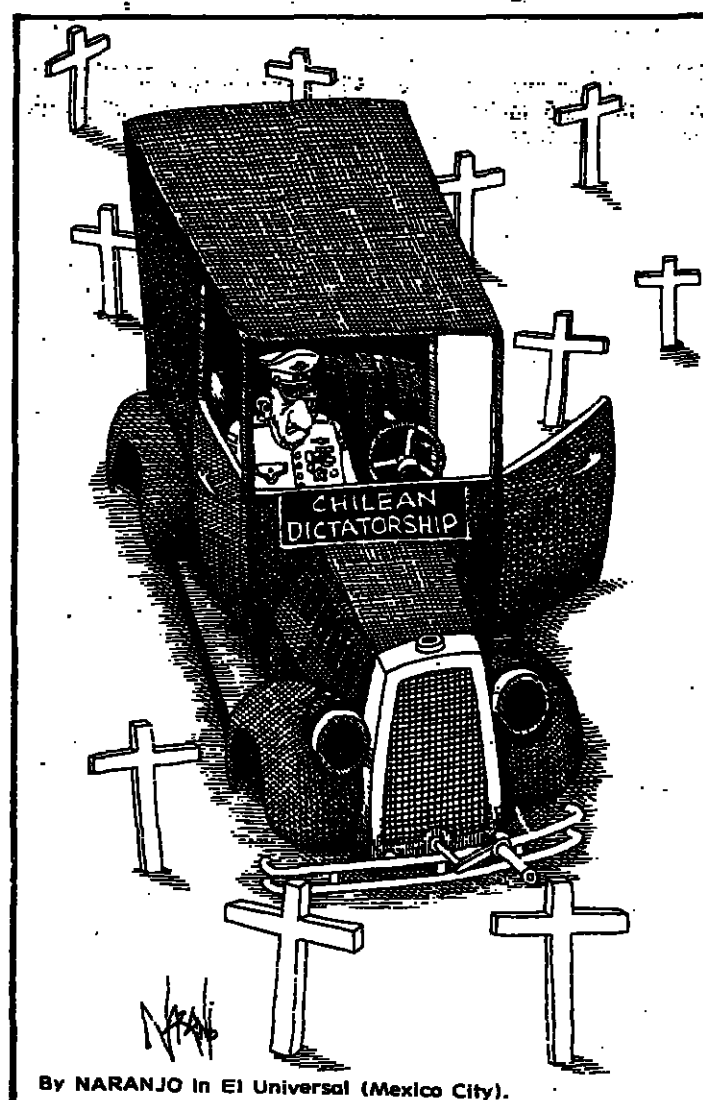
His party forms part of the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP), which includes the Communists. It is specifically banned under the terms of the 1980 constitution.

The MDP wants Chileans of all political persuasions to pressure the government into permitting Almeyda to stay.

Government secretary-general, Francisco Javier Cuadra, who acts as official spokesman, said Almeyda's return formed part of a leftist plot to exert pressure on the Vatican.

"He is an ideologist for violence and Marxism... and it is in this context that the government will take the required steps," Cuadra said.

Following his court appearance Tuesday, Almeyda was transferred under heavy police guard to a place of detention in Chile Chico, more than 1,000 kilometres south of Santiago.



His attorney said he could face up to three years in jail for returning without permission. The government has been prevented from immediately deporting him by a court ruling ordering him to remain in the country while legal proceedings continue.

"I am not doing this just for myself and my family, but thinking also for those who share with me this tragedy," he said in a statement. "To deprive a Chilean of being able to live in his native land... is like sentencing him to a living death."

Unexplained attacks upstage Salvadorean guerrilla campaign

By Angus MacSwan
Reuters

SAN SALVADOR — The seizure of an entire school on March 25 by an army deserter and a woman accomplice was the latest in a series of violent acts that has frayed nerves in this small Central American country.

The man and woman, accused by the military of being leftist rebels but disavowed by El Salvador's main guerrilla organisation, held nearly 1,000 children and teachers at gunpoint, finally giving up after all the hostages were released or escaped.

They were said to be on drugs by a military officer and almost incoherent by a religious leader who spoke to them. They fired no shots, issued no clear set of demands and gave themselves up after seven hours.

The incident's unanswered

questions make it similar to several acts of violence in the past few weeks that have raised tensions in a country torn by years of politically-motivated attacks from both the left and the right.

In February, three supermarkets and a cinema were burned down.

Last week, in separate incidents on the same night, gunmen shot up the street on which the Israeli embassy stands and assailants armed with machineguns and rocket launchers had a 15-minute gunbattle with security guards outside the home of the leader of the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

Officials and political analysts disagree about who is responsible for the recent attacks, but they say that in a nation where violence and disenfranchisement are common, the line between orga-

nised and random acts is easily blurred and often irrelevant. "Violence is inherent in this country," one diplomat told Reuters. "It could all be coincidence."

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), locked in a civil war against the U.S.-backed government for more than seven years, said at the start of this year they would launch a new urban campaign.

The FMLN, which is usually quick to claim responsibility for its actions, often kidnaps officials outside the capital and kills suspected informers. The mayor of San Cayetano town was seized on last Sunday.

According to military sources, the men who shot up the street housing the Israeli embassy were drunken policemen. And

although FMLN literature was found near the house of Christian Democrat leader Guillermo Guevara Lacayo, he said he thought the attack was more likely carried out by his rightwing enemies who were trying to blame the left.

The supermarket and cinema fires remain a mystery. Treasury police commander Reynaldo Golcher said that March 25's school hostage drama was carried out by a rebel infiltrator who had joined the army then deserted.

The analysts say it did not bear the hallmark of a deliberate FMLN action, and the guerrilla group denied it was behind the incident.

But diplomats say the FMLN stands to gain from the fear and confusion sown by violence, whether or not it initiates it.

سماح في الدول

Saudi Arabia's desert agriculture yields wheat surplus

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

AL KHARJ, Saudi Arabia — Tariq Al Saaleem peels the skin off a ripe wheat kernel and pops it into his mouth.

"The farmer is only happy when he tastes the fruit of his labour," he smiles, gazing at acres (hectares) of wheat fields almost ready for harvest.

The fruit of Saudi Arabia's rush into desert agriculture has been a phenomenal surge in wheat production which now more than twice meets the country's needs. Output last year was 2.3 million tonnes, compared with 3,300 tonnes in 1978. Surplus wheat is sold at a loss or given away to countries as far away as Indonesia and Botswana.

The challenge is no longer to grow wheat in a hostile climate but to curb a burgeoning surplus — 1.4 million tonnes last year — cut costs and diversify into other staples.

Saudi Arabia buys wheat from its farmers at five times the world price and spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually on agricultural machinery, irrigation equipment and silos.

The result has been one of the world's highest rates of agricultural growth and the greening of vast desert tracts in areas like Al Kharij, 100 kilometres south of the capital, Riyadh.

Giant irrigation pivots on wheels crawl through the fields in a mist of water pumped from deep below the surface. Shining steel silos break the endless de-

sert horizon.

Like many Saudis, Tariq's father Abdul Rahman took advantage of an interest-free 10-year loan from the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank in 1979 and built an 18 million riyal (\$5 million) wheat farm.

He increased cultivated land area from 300 hectares (740 acres) in 1980 to its present 950 hectares (2,350 acres) in 1982, which yield an average 5,000 tonnes a year.

Abdul Rahman works in the capital as an aide to the Riyadh's governor but Tariq, 25, represents a new breed of Saudi farmer. A graduate of the agriculture college of King Saud University, he lives on the farm and runs it himself.

"I make all the decisions — the soil preparation, the fertiliser, the irrigation speed, when and where to plant. Other farms are run by foreign experts and they don't have half the area we have," he says proudly.

Tariq says he can produce a tonne of wheat for 900 riyals (\$240) and sell it to the government at its guaranteed buying price of 2,000 riyals (\$533), five times the current world price of \$103.

The buying price was cut from 3,500 riyals (\$930) a tonne in 1984 when the surplus reached 400,000 tonnes.

The state pays half the cost of any new equipment needed and sells locally produced urea fertiliser at the subsidised price of \$5.60 dollar a 50-kilo (110-lb) bag.

"The cost involved in the pro-

duction of agriculture in the early stages was very much directed toward the infrastructure and that explains the subsidies we offered," Oil and Acting Planning Minister Hisham Nazer told Reuters in an interview.

But as we go along we are reducing these subsidies and also transferring them to other areas where we can also encourage development and utilisation of technology."

Agricultural bank loans dropped to 1.55 billion riyals (\$413 million) in 1985-86 from 2.3 billion (\$613 million) in 1984-85.

Last September, the government told the five main agricultural companies, which produce more than a quarter of the kingdom's wheat, to devote one third of their cultivated area to barley.

Saudi Arabia imported 5.5 million tonnes of barley, its main livestock fodder, in 1985 and resold it to farmers at a huge discount. It now offers local farmers one riyal (27 cents) a kilo (2.2 lbs) for home-grown barley.

The subsidies have become a financial burden at a time when lower oil revenues have opened up a gaping budget deficit.

Officials admit it would be cheaper to buy wheat abroad but stress the broader social benefits of agricultural development.

"The agricultural policy has successfully realised several goals," said Prince Abdullah Ibn Faisal Al-Turki, president of the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu, an agency charged with



Saudi Arabia has attained self-sufficiency in wheat and some other agricultural items such as eggs, poultry and dairy products with the tremendous development of the sector introducing modern means of agriculture.

developing two industrial cities.

"We have sought to achieve food security and to diversify our economic base to spread development into areas that would not otherwise attract investment, and to reverse immigration to the cities," he told visiting journalists this month.

Al Kharij bears witness. Formerly a tiny oasis used as a royal retreat, it is now a modern town serving a surrounding rural population of 150,000. Food security is a top concern.

"What if the Zionist lobby in America decided one day that because an American got killed somewhere, the U.S. should blockade Saudi ports? What could we do, eat sand?" one senior official asked.

The most worrying problem in the long run may be water. Saudi Arabia has vast underground aquifers formed over thousands of years but experts are divided as to how long they can withstand rapid pumping. Officials at the Al Safi dairy

farm in Al Kharij, one of the world's largest with 17,000 heads of cattle, say the water table in their wells has dropped by an average of four metres (13 feet) a year and they may now have to exploit a deeper aquifer with wells of up to 1,800 metres (6,000 feet) deep.

Tariq remains unperturbed. "I personally don't think there is a problem with water. People are having problems because their wells are not constructed properly," he said.

Big business digs deep to aid archaeology

British archaeologists say that many valuable ancient sites have been lost because of urban development and lack of cash. An answer to the problems has been found, says Neil Bennett, involving the very people who were destroying the sites — the developers.

LONDON — A group of enthusiasts crouches in the mud at the City of London boys' school on the Victoria Embankment.

They pick away gently at the black ooze around them as if they were archaeologists poring over figures. Their business is to uncover and record the remains of past centuries.

Nothing could seem more remote from this grubby team than the world of international finance. Yet Morgan Guaranty has given the diggers £250,000 (\$385,000) to excavate this site, part of the £1.5 million large companies will donate to London's archaeology this year.

Since the 1970s British archaeology's funding has been in a crisis. Spending cuts have severely limited the number of sites which can be excavated.

This, coupled with the growth of urban development, especially in London, has led to many archaeological sites being destroyed.

In desperation, archaeologists have looked for alternative sources of funding. London's Department of Urban Archaeology turned to the very people who were destroying the sites, the developers. During the past six years, donations from large businesses have increased so much that they now cover all the City's excavation costs.

The City planning office tells the Department of Urban Archaeology about any development projects. It will then negotiate with the developers for time and funds to excavate the site. So far there have been no refusals. Among companies which have

donated six-figure sums are Commercial Union, Eagle Star and Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance companies, and Guinness Peat Group, the financial services conglomerate.

Developers who have given the department similar amounts include Wates, Rosehaugh Stanhope, Haslemere Estates and Land Securities.

Some negotiations have been tough, as you would expect in the City, says Mr. Brian Hobbey, head of the department, "but we have always arrived at a figure."

Developers often give more than just a lump sum. When the department excavated a Legal & General site near Leadenhall Street, the insurance company lent shoring and digging equipment which would have cost up to £100,000.

The department has gained developers' confidence by always keeping to the terms of a contract. Sites are left on agreed dates, no matter how much re-

maining unexcavated. It will also help developers gain as much good publicity from the site as possible.

A year ago, Mr. Hobbey helped set up the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group.

This has a code of practice for both parties to help them reach agreement over excavation of a development site. The British Property Federation, whose members include all leading developers, has said it will ensure they keep to the code.

Companies which have supported excavations are usually happy with the result. Their directors enjoy the feeling of dabbling in the past, and many believe they have a moral duty to have sites investigated.

For many of them, the sums involved are relatively small. Legal & General gave the department £150,000 to excavate the Leadenhall Street site and is now building a £19.8 million shops and offices complex on it.

The department will need such support increasingly. Some reports have estimated that up to half the City will be redeveloped in the next 10 to 15 years. Modern concrete foundations destroy archaeological levels — the work has to be done now.

Outside London, archaeologists have found it impossible to copy the department's success. In provincial towns developers tend to be smaller and unable to fund archaeological levels.

The York Archaeology Trust has turned to another source of finance — the public.

During the excavations in the city's Coppergate between 1977 and 1981, the trust was advised by a local businessman, Mr. Ian Skipper, to fund the operation by commerce. An entry fee to the site was charged, and visitors were encouraged to buy gifts from a makeshift exhibition. The excavation raised £500,000.

Since then, a permanent ex-

hibition has been built — the Jorvik Viking Centre. This offers guided tours of the site and replica scenes of Viking York.

It attracts 890,000 visitors and makes £800,000 profit a year. When bank loans are repaid by 1989, the money will fund further excavations in the city.

"British archaeology has become a mixed economy through necessity," said Mr. Peter Addyman, head of the York Archaeological Trust. "I think we should have a decent centrally-funded archaeology programme but it doesn't look as if we are going to get it. There's no use whingeing, we have just had to do something about it."

"We are already benefitting from the centre's profits and have employed eight more staff. We have lost so many beautiful things in York because we haven't had the money. Soon we won't have to lose any more of them — Financial Times feature.

An overseas Chinese returns to seek roots

By Lai Kwok Kin
Reuters

CHOW KWUN, China — The journey from my home in the concrete jungle of bustling Singapore to the ancient south China village of Chow Kwun was a voyage through time.

Half a century after my mother first left the district, a rickety van spluttering along dusty tracks delivered me to a simple brick house in the village of 600 people.

Chow Kwun, three hours' drive from Canton, is a collection of rare houses and pig pens. Pigs and chickens roam free, making occasional forays into villagers' homes.

The village has no running water and families draw their daily supplies from nearby wells. Power lines have been laid on, but electricity is available only between certain hours at night.

My mother's sister and her family still live in Chow Kwun, in the province of Guangdong. They grow rice and rear carp on the family fish farm as their ancestors have done for generations.

My mother was born in a neighbouring village. There were too many mouths to feed and her parents gave her away to a childless couple.

They took her almost 50 years ago to British-ruled Malaya (now independent Malaysia and Singapore), hoping, like so many other Chinese who migrated all over the world, to return with great wealth.

There was no pot of gold waiting for my mother's adoptive parents and they never went back to China. My mother dutifully entered into an arranged but happy marriage with another migrant from Guangdong, and my two brothers and I were born in Singapore.

I came away from Chow Kwun deeply aware that, had my mother not made that long boat-trip to South-East Asia, I could have been born one of China's 800 million peasants. My present life, that of an English-educated Singaporean journalist, would have been as remote as to be inconceivable.

"Your grandfather worked for a

landlord on a fish farm and had a total of nine children," said my aunt, Chou Sei-Woon, who was the youngest.

"Your grandmother, who died four years ago in this house, gave your mother away because they were too poor to feed all of us."

"Your adoptive grandfather was a distant relative and a nice man. I was very young then but I remember that before your mother went away to Malaya, she used to say, 'Look, I've got two mothers.'"

My real grandfather died of starvation during the Japanese occupation of China in the 1930s, as did two or three of my uncles and aunts.

Aunt Woon, 49, cannot recall precise details but apart from my mother, all that are left of the nine children are a sister in Hong Kong and an uncle in China.

My mother returned to Chow Kwun for a visit in 1985, accompanied by my father and I. It was an emotional reunion for the two sisters and I remember my first visit to the village vividly: They embraced, cried and then embraced again. There was sadness for my mother, though — her return had come too late for her to be reunited with her real mother.

My aunt also entered into an arranged marriage almost 30 years ago with the Po-Kwan, a fish farmer from whom I learnt a great deal about Chinese peasant life. They have two sons, Man-Fei, 24, and Man-Hong, 19.

"I've been a farmer almost all my life and I've seen good and bad times, such as the cultural revolution," said my uncle on my second visit. "Right now life is relatively good."

Last year was not as good and we earned only 1,000 yuan (\$270) from selling fish but I hope we can earn 6,000 yuan (\$1,620) this year," he said.

The average annual income of a Chinese peasant is 425 yuan (\$115).

"In the cultural revolution we earned about 60 jiao (16 cents) a day and had barely enough to eat," said my uncle who began renting land after Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping introduced economic reforms in 1979.

Worried Swiss seek to restore clean air

By Donald Nordberg
Reuters

ZURICH — The Swiss Alps were once the place to come for a breath of fresh air. No more.

The government estimates that half the trees in Switzerland are sick and many dying as a result of air pollution.

Parliament wants to change that. It ordered the cabinet to devise measures which by 1995 would return the air to the quality of the 1950s, but it is learning some things are easier said than done.

Interior Minister Flavio Cotti reported back this month that Switzerland had pioneered the way to cleaner air in Europe, but added: "The government is un-

able to propose steps that will meet the goals in time... and not all the air pollution is home-made."

In the debate that followed, the lower house of parliament — facing elections in October — called for further action but threw out all but one of the stricter measures environmentalists had proposed.

The fumes, while not different in character from those in neighbouring European states, have caused alarm throughout the country. Opinion polls show that most Swiss want tough action and a growing number would vote for "Green" environmentalist candidates for parliament.

The thick smog that paralysed parts of northern Europe in Janu-

ary was not quite so dramatic here. But snow turned grey as it fell, and doctors warned against letting children play outside.

Since then, local authorities have been acting independently, not waiting for a national plan of action.

Two cities — Basle and Baden — passed laws to fine motorists who leave their engines running at stop lights.

In Zurich, the country's biggest metropolitan area, the city council adopted a plan to curtail traffic drastically by making the streets narrower and cutting down on parking places.

And in St. Gallen, the cantonal government gave serious thought to rationing petrol.

To be sure, the Alps are still

breath-taking but increasingly the views are marred by a haze.

The government experts worry that the damage to the trees has substantially increased the risk of avalanches.

And unlike lowland countries, Switzerland, with its deep valleys and irregular weather patterns, cannot count on the wind to blow pollutants into someone else's back yard.

Coupled with the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union last April and Rhine pollution disaster at Basle in November, these factors have led conservative politicians and "Greens" alike to sound strongly conservationist warnings.

In the Nile Valley water contact is intense and there is an enormous amount of egg-laying,

A 'miracle drug' in the Nile Delta

By Paul Evan Ress

CAIRO — There is something new under the sun, the blazing sun of the Nile Delta: a "miracle drug" called praziquantel that cures or renders inoffensive a disease from which millions of Egyptians have suffered and died since the days of the Pharaohs.

The often fatal, invariably debilitating disease is known by two tongue-twisting names: schistosomiasis and bilharzia. Its more familiar but inaccurate name is "snail fever." In point of fact, the water snail is, at worst, an accessory to the crime since it merely serves as the vector, the host of the parasite that causes the disease.

It is this parasite or schistosome that has been found in the form of calcified eggs in the kidneys of 3,000 year-old mummies in Egypt, and in 2,000 year-old disinterred bodies in the Chinese provinces of Hunan and Hubei. But neither Egypt nor China has a monopoly on schistosomiasis.

"An estimated 200 million human beings suffer from it," says Dr. Kenneth Mott, the head of the World Health Organisation's schistosomiasis programme. "That's roughly one out of every 25 persons on earth."

"Schisto" is to be found virtually everywhere and is endemic in 74 countries.

Around half a billion children, women and men are in danger of catching schistosomiasis because of poor housing and the lack of clean water and decent sanitary facilities. They risk contact every day with snails that house the parasites by swimming, bathing, washing, fishing, farming and rice-growing in polluted waters.

By sheer numbers and its social and economic impact, schistosomiasis ranks as the second worst tropical disease, after malaria.

Dr. Mott looks upon praziquantel and two similar drugs as "the greatest advance in treating parasitic diseases since chloroquine was developed against malaria in World War II."

"Praziquantel — a single-dose, non-toxic, non-carcinogenic tablet taken orally — has had dramatic results with schoolchildren in the Nile Delta," he says. "Surveys have shown a spectacular drop in infection, from 90 to 13 per cent in some areas. One dose of praziquantel sharply reduces the number of parasites immediately, and the children feel better at once. Their teachers notice how much more alert, bright and energetic their students become. So do their proud parents. It really is a kind of miracle drug."

The German pharmaceutical firm, Bayer, put praziquantel on the market, which is historically logical since a very young German scientist, Theodor Bilharz, 26, identified the schisto parasite 135 years ago in Cairo. That is why doctors call the disease bilharzia.

"We calculate that it takes 64 U.S. cents to treat a child of 30 kg and twice as much for an adult," says Dr. Andrew Davis, the director of WHO's Parasitic Diseases Division. It was Dr. Davis who coordinated the first clinical trials in collaboration with the manufacturer.

"In the Nile Valley water contact is intense and there is an enormous amount of egg-laying,

so re-infection is common, almost unavoidable. But the re-infection is a good deal less serious than the primary infection. Praziquantel does not kill all the schistosomes, but it reduces their number greatly until the symptoms disappear. A child or an adult can live with the sharply-reduced number of parasites. And schistosomiasis is no longer a public health problem," Dr. Davis continued.

"The new, more cost-effective UNICEF/WHO approach does not seek to eradicate schistosomiasis or to do away with all the snails. The preferred strategy today is to control the disease by treating people with the drug. The aim is essentially to reduce the proportion of those with heavy infections."

Amira Al Malatay, an Egyptian Ministry of Health official and a highly-trained nurse, has been seconded to UNICEF's Cairo office where she supervises two schisto projects in Abu Al Matameer and Abu Homos, near Alexandria, in the Nile Delta.

"The drug is wonderful," she agrees, "but if only we had clean water and decent sanitation too, we could rid all Egypt of schistosomiasis. That will take a lot of money and time."

Ms. Al Malatay and her close associate, Dr. Ahmed Habashi, were standing in an improvised health centre in an Abu Al Matameer elementary school in the middle of green fields, eucalyptus and palm trees. Cows and donkeys, camels and tractors, and the omnipresent UNICEF jeeps filled the landscape. When Amira picked up the can containing the 1,000 white tablets to show a visitor, a mother objected: "You're taking away our pills!"

"There's nothing backward about these women and children," Dr. Ahmed commented. "They just don't have clean water and good sanitation."

While the mothers and children were queuing for the praziquantel and to give samples of their urine and stools, Dr. Ahmed talked to them about oral rehydration therapy and diarrhoea. "You call that piggy-backing, here I'd call it camel-backing."

"In the bad old days, I mean before praziquantel, people with schisto had to take a series of intravenous injections of tartar emetic. They were expensive, very painful, and dragged out over a long period of time. As you can imagine, it didn't work very well. When we introduced the new miracle drug, we warned everyone about the possible side effects so effectively that when they experienced none, they complained to me that the drug hadn't worked!"

Amira says that 500 persons — doctors, nurses, health visitors, lab technicians, drivers, health workers — have been trained in the two districts of Abu Al Matameer and Abu Homos how to deal with schistosomiasis.

"It would be very easy to replicate in other parts of Egypt," she says. "That's one lesson we have learned from our pioneer work in the Delta."

Miracle drug or not, schistosomiasis remains an enormous children's health problem and even continues to spread. Where are the funds to come from to control the disease now that it can be controlled? — UNICEF feature.

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Wimbledon wreaks havoc with Liverpool's title hopes

LONDON (R) — Super-fit Wimbledon, who views football as a 90-minute assault course, blew a huge hole in Liverpool's English First Division Championship campaign with a successful raid on Anfield.

The much maligned Londoners, whom critics liken to an elite commando squad, used their controversial hit-and-run tactics to great effect in a stunning 2-1 victory — their best result since joining the Football League just 10 years ago.

Wimbledon's win allowed Everton, 1-0 winner at Arsenal, to close the gap on its great rival and with seven matches remaining, Liverpool has 68 points from 35 games, just three ahead of its fellow citizens who have two games in hand.

Wimbledon gave first hint that it was capable of inflicting serious damage on Liverpool's title aspirations when it went ahead after 38 minutes. Nigel Winterburn beating goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with a perfectly struck shot for 25 metres.

Liverpool, missing the calm authority of Irish international defender Mark Lawrenson, struggled to cope with Wimbledon's basic, but enthusiastic, approach and it took a flash of vintage genius from player-manager Kenny Dalglish to restore its fortunes after four minutes of the second half.

Picking up a loose ball 30

metres out, Dalglish looked up, spotted Wimbledon goalkeeper Dave Beasant off his line, and curled a delicious shot high into the corner of the net.

But Liverpool was still playing without any real conviction and Wimbledon, who continued to look dangerous on the break, scored a stunning winner in the 79th minute when substitute Alan Cork directed a powerful header past Grobbelaar.

Long-time First Division pacesetter Arsenal continued its painful slide down the table when it was unable to match Everton in any department of the game, with the exception of Charlie Nicholas' flair for the unexpected.

Nicholas, whose future at High-bury became further clouded in midweek when Arsenal paid Leicester £800,000 (\$1.28 million) for striker Alan Smith, produced some delightful touches and almost scored in the 21st minute.

The Scottish striker, whom both Liverpool and Manchester United are interested in signing, beat Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall with an audacious chip but the ball bounced to safety off the crossbar.

Less than 60 seconds later Everton scored with a similar effort from new signing Wayne Clarke, who cost £300,000 (\$540,000) from Second Division Birmingham three weeks ago.

Arsenal's defeat, coupled with Tottenham's 3-1 reverse at Luton, who took over third place 10 points behind Liverpool, probably marked the end of London's championship challenge and the league title is almost certainly destined to end up on Merseyside for the ninth time in 12 seasons.

Luton's emergence will please all those who enjoy pure football and goals by Mick Harford, Mike Newell, and Darren McDougall meant former manager David Pleat, now in charge at Tottenham, returned home with something to ponder.

Glasgow Rangers maintained its good run in the Scottish Premier League, although it took it until the 85th minute to score the only goal of the game against visiting Motherwell. Ally McCoist ending the 38,000 crowd's agony.

City rival Celtic remained four points adrift after struggling to a 2-2 win at bottom of the table Hamilton. Celtic's goals were scored by Alan McNally, Owen, Archdeacon and Brian McClair.

Bayern increases lead with defeat of Hamburg

BONN (R) — West German league leader Bayern Munich moved three points clear of second-placed Hamburg with a 2-1 win before a sell-out crowd at Hamburg's Volkspark Stadium Saturday.

Bayern's Michael Rummenigge set up Danish striker Lars Lund from a corner in the 26th minute and the Dane headed home despite near-gale winds to put Munich in the lead.

The 61,000 crowd sat back in relief when Hamburg's Manfred Kastl equalised with less than 10 minutes to go with a fine shot from 20 metres out.

But goalkeeper Uli Stein misjudged a goal kick three minutes from the final whistle and Rummenigge seized the chance to give Bayern its first win in Hamburg

since 1979 and inflict Hamburg's first home defeat for a year.

Bayer Leverkusen held on to third place with a 1-1 draw at Nuremberg. A scrappy match was highlighted by the successful debut of the home club's recent East German refugee acquisition Frank Lippmann, formerly of Dresden.

Lippmann, a striker, went off to cheers in the second half after playing his first league match at the end of a one-year obligatory suspension imposed by his defection to the West in March 1986.

Schalke beat visitor Stuttgart 2-1, pushing the UEFA Cup hopeful down the table from fourth to sixth place with two goals from Jurgen Wegmann, who turned in a sparkling performance.

UEFA levels stiff fines on Apoel Nicosia for no-show

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Europe's soccer authority ordered Apoel Nicosia to pay Besiktas Istanbul 55,000 Swiss francs (\$36,000) for income lost when the Cyprus club refused to play a European Champions' Cup match in Turkey last fall.

Besiktas will get the money to compensate for revenue losses in ticket sales, television rights and advertising, the control and disciplinary commission of the Union of European Football Associations said in a statement after one of its regular meetings.

The Cyprus team can appeal the sanction.

UEFA last fall banned Apoel for two years from European Cup competition after it failed to show at Istanbul for a first-leg second-round game against the Turkish champion last Oct. 22.

Apoel also was disqualified and initially fined 4,000 francs (\$2,600) for refusing to play.

The club's decision came under

government pressure. The draw touched off an uproar in Cyprus, which has been technically at war with Turkey since Turkish troops invaded the island in 1974.

Apoel claimed at the time that Besiktas failed to meet its condition that the Turkish team and its fans arrived for the return leg through a government-controlled air or sea port rather than the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus.

Two Italian clubs topped the list of other fines, both imposed for incidents in the return leg of the UEFA Cup quarterfinals last week, where the two teams were eliminated.

Torino has to pay 17,000 francs (\$11,200) for unsportsmanlike conduct during its 2-1 loss at Austria's FC Tirol in Innsbruck.

Internazionale Milan was fined 12,000 francs (\$7,900) after fans repeatedly set off fireworks in the 1-1 against IFK Goeteborg of Sweden in Milan, UEFA said.

Oxford upsets Cambridge in controversial boat race

LONDON (R) — Underdog Oxford, undeterred by the loss of four crew members in a much-publicised "mutiny" last month, powered to victory over Cambridge in the 133rd University Boat Race on the River Thames.

In windy, rainy conditions Saturday, described as "murderous" by one commentator, Oxford won the toss and opted for the more sheltered of the two stations.

Its cox Andy Lobbenberg gambled boldly by steering as close to the bank as he dared from the start — and it paid off.

The heavier Oxford crew led from the start and were able to pull across in front of its rival in the later stages of the four-and-a-

quarter miles (6.8 kilometre) winding stretch of tidal water.

The race was a triumph for Oxford President Donald MacDonald — at 31 the oldest man to row the race — who sparked the February revolt by selecting himself in preference to one of the Americans in the crew.

The Dark Blues also owed much to its stroke (key oarsman) Gavin Stewart, who at 2.03 metres and 104.9 kilograms, was the tallest and heaviest man to row in the 157-year-old contest.

The winning margin was around four lengths, and the time of 19 minutes 59 seconds was the slowest since 1979, but unsurprising in the conditions.

Mandlikova, Sukova to meet in Washington

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Top seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia beat fifth-seeded American Kathy Rinaldi 7-5, 6-1 to advance to a semifinal showdown with countrywoman Helena Sukova in the \$150,000 Washington Women's Tennis Tournament.

Sukova, the third seed, was

pushed to three sets by eighth-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States before winning 6-4, 2-6, 6-1.

Mandlikova won an erratic first set that had seven breaks of serve. But starting from 5-5 in the first set, she took control against the 20-year-old Rinaldi, winning eight of the last nine games.

Italian team wins Paris-Peking air rally

PARIS (R) — A three-man Italian team in a Cessna 310 light aircraft has won the first return race from Paris to Peking, the longest air race ever held, organisers said.

In all, 17 single and twin-engine planes took off from an airfield near Paris on Feb. 28 for the month-long race and all completed the course.

The Italia-Wings team was Saturday pronounced the official winner of the 35,000-kilometre (22,000-mile) round trip. It takes home a prize of 250,000 francs (\$41,000).

French teams came second and third.

The rally was organised by Frenchman Bernard Lamy, who got his inspiration flying around the Far East in a light aircraft, selling, pressure cookers. The fliers funded the race by attracting business sponsors.

Lamy hopes to hold the event every two years.

Hagler's court hearing over title adjourned

BOSTON (R) — A judge hearing Marvelous Marvin Hagler's request for an injunction to prevent the World Boxing Association (WBA) from filling the midweight title he was stripped of, adjourned the case until next Tuesday.

However, federal judge Robert Keeton did elicit a promise from the WBA that it would take no steps to select a new champion before his ruling, Hagler's attorney said.

The judge did get the WBA attorney to agree the WBA would take no steps to fill the title until he made a ruling. Hagler's attorney Morris Goldings told Reuters.

Hagler, due to fight fellow-American Sugar Ray Leonard in Las Vegas on April 6, was seeking the injunction after being stripped of the crown for failing to make a mandatory defence against a WBA-sanctioned contender.

Greek leads Australian Ultra-Marathon

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Yiannis Kouros of Greece maintained a 70-kilometre (43-mile) lead Saturday as the 1,060-kilometre (658-mile) Westfield Sydney-to-Melbourne Ultra-Marathon road race entered its third day.

Officials said Kouros, winner of the race in 1985, had covered 524 kilometres (325 miles) in the first 48 hours.

Kouros has rested only twice since the start of the race on Thursday morning, leaving the road for a total of just under three hours.

Race manager Charlie Lynn said the 31-year-old Greek had not slept during that time.

Zola Budd says she might not race this year

LONDON (R) — Britain's former world 5,000 metres women's record holder Zola Budd has said she might not race this year because of an injury to her right hamstring.

"It is a possibility that I might not be able to race this summer," Budd said in a newspaper interview Saturday. "I'm getting daily treatment and swimming for an hour every day to keep me fit."

Budd's new coach Harry Wilson said she was still able to complete circuit training two or three times a week.

"Her recovery is very good and when she starts running again she will get fit very quickly," he said.

Amman Little League — Basketball



Juniors champion: Nashashibi/Ebbini team



Mids champion: Service Master team



Seniors champion: Signode team

Final Standings

JUNIORS

Champion
Runner-up
3rd place
4th place

Nashashibi/Ebbini team
Lego team
Mercedes team
Near East team

MIDS

Champion
Runner-up
3rd place
4th place
5th place
6th place
7th place
8th place

Service Master team
Dorma team
Al Ahyah team
Furukawa team
Jordan Lift team
Santrino team
Ishtikal team
Jordan Express team

SENIORS

Champion
Runner-up
3rd place
4th place
5th place
6th place

Signode team
Marriott team
Intercontinental team
Jirapack team
Cairo Amman team
Squibb team

W. Germans upset Soviets in world archery tourney

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — West Germany won the men's team final of the 34th World Target Archery Championships after title-holders the Soviet Union fell at the semifinal stage at Victoria Park Saturday.

The Soviet team never came to grips with blustery winds which caused problems for all teams, especially the Europeans. It came 11th out of 12 in the semifinals and it coach Arsen Balov slammed the elimination system whereby the first eight teams went through.

He said this was unfair, and meant that the best teams often did not make the finals. The United States and China

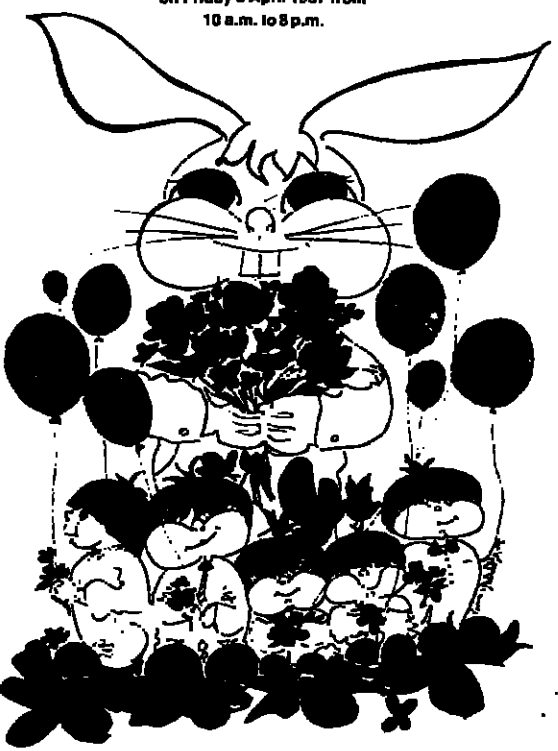
took second and third places respectively in the final. But the powerful West Germans led after each of the four distances and their coaches Franz Baum and Klaus Roettger said Balov's criticisms were unjustified.

"Balov needs to find a different kind of sportsman — he needs to look for fighters," Roettger said. Baum said his team's victory was due to their youth, training and the new carbon arrows that every member used.

The Soviet Union won the women's team event after a close tussle with the French, who led for most of the event but were pipped for the runner-up spot by South Korea.

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Jabal Amman: Divan Patisserie - Pizza Hut - Sweet Supermarket - The British Council.
Jabal Luweideh: University Bookshop, Khalaf Stores.

Ticket Price: For Adults (One Dinar)
For Children (Half Dinar)

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — American John McEnroe easily reached the final of the \$315,000 Belgian Indoor Championships by defeating Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-3, 6-3 in tennis action on Saturday.

Defending champion Mats Wilander played fellow Swede Jonas Svensson in the later semifinal match.

McEnroe played tentatively for most of the contest because of a sore hip, but he was never pressed by the lackluster Swede. Jarryd defeated top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany on Friday, but apparently lost his touch after that match.

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Part II



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OPERA

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3:15 THE
MOMENT OF
TRUTH



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

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1- THE
DOLPHIN
3:30, 6:15
2- KARMEN
8:30



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

W

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

Japan warns U.S. against restrictions on electronics

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's trade minister Saturday called the U.S. plan to impose tariffs on a wide array of Japanese products "unfathomable" and warned that Japan would challenge the plan as a violation of international trade laws.

President Ronald Reagan said in announcing the measures Friday that Japan had breached a July accord barring Japanese firms from "dumping" semiconductors — selling them at unfair market prices — and requiring Japan to open its markets to U.S.-made computer chips.

Mr. Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, said Mr. Reagan's announcement of the measures came just when the U.S.-Japan semiconductor pact was about to be signed.

Mr. Tamura suggested Japan might respond to the U.S. penalties by adopting its own countermeasures — and perhaps even cancel altogether the U.S.-Japan semiconductor agreement.

The U.S. measures, the most sweeping trade retaliation taken against Japan since World War II, would cover as much as \$300 million in Japanese exports to the United States.

Mr. Tamura said Japan would seek emergency consultations with the United States on Mr. Reagan's decision, hoping the United States would withdraw what he called a discriminatory action against Japan before it takes effect in two weeks.

"The Japanese side has done everything possible to facilitate the implementation of the arrangement. It's only a matter of time before it begins to yield positive results. I feel perplexed because the United States has taken such hasty action without waiting to see those results," he told a news conference.

Mr. Tamura said the U.S. step "is in violation of the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement (and) is the most regrettable development, in total disregard of the fact that the Japanese side is implementing this arrangement in good faith."

"Should the government of the United States go ahead with the announced measures, the government of Japan will take appropriate measures, including those in pursuance of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)," he said.

The GATT, based in Geneva, sets rules regulating world commerce and provides a forum for settling trade disputes.

Asked to elaborate on possible countermeasures, Mr. Tamura said, "If the U.S. side proceeds with unilateral action, we may consider measures in accordance with GATT or some other countermeasures, or partially or totally abrogate the semiconductor agreement," he said.

The accord, reached last July, set minimum prices for Japanese computer chips sold outside Japan and called on Japan to increase its imports of U.S.-made chips.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 21, '87, and ending Wednesday, March 25, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	1.000	—
Petra Bank	12750	29018	2.350	2.350	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2623	5436	2.090	2.080	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	10566	17416	1.630	1.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	3886	5217	1.340	1.350	1.000
Housing Bank	1400	2269	1.620	1.620	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	1.000	—
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	5.000	—
Bank of Jordan	30800	611512	18.900	19.000	5.000
Arab Bank	2075	267947	129.000	128.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	29615	73936	2.500	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	68050	53189	0.770	0.800	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	33401	40827	1.750	1.710	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	194826	159163	0.730	0.830	1.000
National Financial Investments	9832	14144	1.440	1.440	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	43256	26610	0.590	0.630	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	12031	10947	0.920	0.910	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	22833	32892	1.440	1.430	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	2.000	—
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	10.000	—
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	66186	338128	4.750	5.050	1.000
REFOCO Life Insurance	10038	8700	0.850	0.870	1.000
Jordan Insurance	200	2280	11.500	11.400	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1250	1063	0.820	0.850	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	19200	19786	1.050	1.030	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
Arabian Seas Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jerusalem Insurance	2225	3079	1.350	1.400	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	20540	16394	0.800	0.790	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
General Insurance	350	540	1.750	1.550	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	10.000	—
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	10.000	—
Al-Izzah Insurance	—	—	—	1.000	—
National Ahliya Insurance	1270	1715	1.300	1.350	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	34852	20060	0.570	0.590	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	500	220	0.440	0.440	1.000
Management and Consultancy	—	—	—	1.000	—
General Investment	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Leasing Corporation	447	304	0.700	0.680	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	40836	6947	0.670	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	12220	5009	0.950	0.950	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	7297	11011	1.500	1.510	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	1.000	—
Arab International Hotels	56850	27820	0.480	0.470	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	1.000	—
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan National Shipping Lines	6750	5961	0.870	0.900	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	105450	57804	0.550	0.530	1.000
Jordan Dairy	43097	53043	1.180	1.250	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	3313	6982	2.130	2.020	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	261334	231104	0.850	0.930	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1207	2836	2.350	2.350	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	2812	4134	1.450	1.470	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	8668	46769	4.700	5.700	1.000
Aladdin Industries	49437	97014	0.960	1.020	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	745612	1244460	1.540	1.760	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	50	215	4.000	4.300	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	12320	12806	1.020	1.040	1.000
Chemical Industries	16288	19002	1.160	1.190	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	25570	13938	0.510	0.540	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	50	68	1.360	1.360	1.000
National Steel Industries	354353	804741	2.180	2.320	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	20590	18505	0.900	0.870	1.000
General Mining	2250	3938	1.750	1.750	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	5224	36726	7.000	7.060	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	346005	130771	0.380	0.370	1.000
National Industries	8080	5700	0.690	0.700	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	11000	3855	0.350	0.360	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	1.000	—
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	15118	18354	1.210	1.230	1.000
Radio Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1000	2400	2.300	2.400	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	16600	7333	0.410	0.440	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	1.000	—
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	1.000	—
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Tanning	175	319	1.820	1.820	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	5.000	—
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	1.000	—
Mas Industries	—	—	—	1.000	—
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	1.000	—
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	46525	43189	0.930	0.940	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	2382	1426	0.600	0.600	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	1.000	—
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	680153	1931256	2.830	3.140	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	91899	96704	1.070	1.080	1.000
Grand total	3,681,417	6,716,932			

UAE bank sees modest recovery in GCC states

ABU DHABI (R) — The Emirates Industrial Bank has predicted a modest economic recovery in the Gulf Arab states following higher oil revenues.

A bank study, carried by the Emirates News Agency WAM, said total oil revenues of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries were likely to reach \$39 billion this year from \$33.5 billion in 1986.

The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The bank said the improvement would result from higher oil prices made possible by last December's OPEC accord to restrain overall group production.

These curbs have pushed up oil prices from around \$8 a barrel in mid-1986 to around \$18.

"All signs point to the possibility of a modest recovery in the economies of these (GCC) countries, although this expected growth will not be similar to that of the (1970s) boom years," the study said.

It added, however, that GCC states would experience higher budget deficits this year because of needs arising from past recession and the difficulty of making fresh spending cuts.

The study said the combined GCC budget deficits would rise to \$23.2 billion from \$17.9 billion last year.

It said lower oil exports cut the GCC states' combined trade surplus to \$18 billion in 1986 from \$21.5 billion in 1985.

The UAE suffered a 19.5 per cent drop in gross domestic product to 77.6 billion dirhams (\$21.1 billion) last year from 96.4 billion (\$26.3 billion) in 1985, it added.

Lebanon seeks Arab fund to bolster lira

ABU DHABI (R) — A senior Lebanese central bank official called Saturday for the establishment of an Arab fund to assist the Lebanese pound, which has lost more than 80 per cent in value against the dollar since January last year.

Central Bank Vice-Governor Meguerditch Boudikian told an Arab exchange dealers conference the bank would continue to defend the currency.

But, he said, Lebanon needed foreign support for its war-battered economy now more than ever before.

"We expect a common effort between the central bank and Arab central banks and monetary authorities to create an Arab fund to support and preserve the value of the currency when needed," he said.

Twelve years of civil war have devastated productive sectors of the Lebanese economy and created big trade and budget deficits.

Prominent banker predicts further dollar fall this year

ABU DHABI (R) — A leading U.S. banker said Saturday the dollar was likely to fall another five to 10 per cent this year and an improvement in the huge American trade deficit would be only temporary at current world exchange rate levels.

Mr. Kurt Viernetz, worldwide treasurer of Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., told Arab currency traders meeting here that the steady depreciation of the dollar had not gone far enough to rein in U.S. deficits on a lasting basis.

Speaking at the 14th annual congress of the Inter-Arab Cambrist Association, Mr. Viernetz said agreement reached by six major industrial nations in Paris last month to steady the dollar around current levels left many questions unanswered.

"I cannot see any chance for a real turnaround (rise) in the dollar," Mr. Viernetz said. "I believe there is room for a further fall of five to 10 per cent in 1987."

The agreement reached by the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, Britain and Canada, loosely the "Group of Six," came after months of argument, with Tokyo and Bonn claiming Washington's policy of talking the dollar lower had made life impossible for West German and Japanese exporters.

The Paris accord also brought a pause to the continued slide of the dollar engineered by a meeting in New York in September 1985 when industrial nations agreed to depress the value of the currency to help redress global trade imbalances.

But Mr. Viernetz said Morgan Guaranty's economic models showed that with no further change in exchange rates — and continued sluggish growth in West Germany and Japan — the U.S. trade deficit would improve only temporarily.

He said the deficit might fall to \$145 billion this year from \$165 billion in 1986 and further improve to \$120 billion in 1988.

But by 1990, it would be back around the \$160 billion level. "This is clearly unacceptable for the monetary authorities and politicians in Washington," he said.

Mr. Viernetz said it was only natural that markets should try to test the credibility of the Paris accord which was struck with the

dollar trading at about 1.83 marks and 152.50 yen.

Immediately before the 1985 New York agreement, the dollar had been trading at 2.84 marks and 240 yen.

Mr. Viernetz said he believed major nations in Paris wanted to see the dollar hold within a "loose range" of 1.75 to 1.90 marks and 145 to 155 yen, with any attempt to push the U.S. currency lower being countered by central bank intervention.

The dollar ended in New York Friday at 147.15/25 yen — its lowest level against the Japanese currency in roughly 40 years. It closed at 1.8160/70 marks.

The Abu Dhabi meeting brings together more than 200 traders and bank treasury chiefs from the Arab World and Arab banks in European and U.S. financial centres.

Formal discussions have also centred on the role of Arab banks in world financial markets, with bankers urging them to adapt to a new global trend towards securitisation of business.

Hikmat Nashashibi, president of the Arab Bankers Association, said Arab banks have to shake off their old mentality of commercial banking and concentrate more in investment banking.

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Philippines, banks restructure repayment of \$13.2 billion debt

NEW YORK (AP) — The Philippines and its creditor banks have agreed to restructure \$13.2 billion in commercial bank debt, lengthening repayment periods and lowering interest rates, Philippine and bank officials said Friday.

Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin told a news conference the package also included a programme for allowing the creditor banks to swap some of the debt for equity investments in certain Philippine enterprises.

The agreement marks the end of months of what Mr. Ongpin called "very difficult" negotiations between the banks and the Philippine government, whose total foreign debt of about \$25 billion is the fifth-largest in the Third World.

The action's initial debt talks with its creditor banks collapsed last November over the reluctance of some major banks to offer interest rate concessions.

"We are totally delighted with the outcome of these negotiations," Mr. Ongpin said.

Credit to be rescheduled over a 17-year period, with a 7½ year initial grace period, includes \$5.8 billion in debt already restructured in 1984, \$3.5 billion in debt falling due from 1987-1992, \$2.96 billion in trade credits and \$25 million in new lending granted in 1985.

Interest rate margins on the covered debt will be set at 7-8 of a per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, or LIBOR for the bulk of the debt, and 3-4 per cent over LIBOR for the

trade credits. The rates would rise to one per cent and 1½ per cent over LIBOR for any year the Philippines fails to keep current on its debt payments.

Mr. Ongpin said that over the 17-year restructuring, the Philippines would save nearly \$2 billion in lower interest payments and reduction of foreign exchange spending through the debt-equity swap programme.

Under that programme, creditor banks could use interest payments to buy Philippine investment notes, or pins. Pins, non-interest bearing debt certificates with a six-year maturity, could be convertible at any time before maturity into their full value in Philippine pesos to be used for funding government-approved equity investments in Philippine enterprises.

Original pin programmes proposed by Philippine negotiators and resisted by the banks envisioned giving the banks the choice of accepting pins at a certain interest rate, or cash at a lower rate.

Mr. Ongpin said several investment banks and commercial banks already had expressed interest in participating in a syndicated sale of pins in the secondary market for Third World debt.

Mr. Ongpin said the Philippines hoped to raise \$100 million to \$150 million through the sale of pins over the next year. At the same time, if the pins are successful they would reduce the amount of foreign currency reserves the nation would have to spend for interest payments.

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Weinberger: Soviets successfully test new SS-18 missile version

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has conducted the first successful test of a modernised version of its primary long-range nuclear missile, the SS-18, Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger has said.

Mr. Weinberger, interviewed for the Cable News Network's (CNN) "newsmaker Saturday" programme, said the Soviets had conducted the successful test last Tuesday.

He cited the flight test as an illustration of how the Soviet Union never stops its development of new weapons, even when it has just deployed a new generation.

Pentagon sources had privately disclosed earlier that the Soviets had conducted three tests of the new SS-18 version, only to see each end in failure.

The test referred to by Mr. Weinberger was the fourth flight test and this time, appeared suc-

cessful, the sources said Friday. A transcript of Mr. Weinberger's taped interview was released last Friday by the Pentagon. It was scheduled for broadcast on CNN at 1:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) Saturday.

The Soviets "continue to grow in all aspects (of military power), conventional, land, sea and air and nuclear," Mr. Weinberger said when asked about the Pentagon's latest assessment of Soviet might, contained in a publication known as "Soviet Military Power."

"An interesting sidelight," he continued.

When a top Pentagon official briefed reporters on the upcom-

ing book last Monday, there had been no successful test.

"The next day, there was. Yes, a successful test so far as we know. They never stop. That's the lesson," he said.

The SS-18 is already considered the most potent land-based missile in the Soviet arsenal, capable of carrying 10 or more warheads. The missile has so far gone through four different modifications, according to the Pentagon, each designed to improve its accuracy and range.

The Soviets currently have 308 of the missiles deployed.

On other topics, Mr. Weinberger defended the deployment of almost 350,000 U.S. troops in Europe, saying proposals to withdraw some of the forces could only be done "at a terrible cost to your own security."

"The best place for our forces is forward-deployed in NATO. We help Europe. We need allies.

We can't buy freedom by ourselves, and you don't gain them by an isolationist approach that has now worked for this century," he said.

Asked about the recent arrests of two U.S. Marine embassy guards accused of espionage while assigned to Moscow, Mr. Weinberger replied: "We're looking into that, and it's obviously a very great loss and a very unhappy situation."

"It shows the Soviets' continued attempts to subvert and seduce the people that are in charge of our security, and it reflects again the importance of increased watchfulness and increased wariness."

Mr. Weinberger declined to speculate on how bad the intelligence loss was, saying an investigation was now underway. He also noted the Pentagon had ordered a separate investigation into how Marine embassy guards are selected and trained.

Mediators say Irish rebels want to end feud

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Two priests mediating for rival factions in the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) said that the two sides have declared they want an end to the feud.

A total of 12 people have been slain in the feud between the rival factions in the terrorist organisation in the last 15 weeks.

A joint statement issued by the two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Gerry Reynolds and the Rev. Alex Reid said the two sides wanted to make public their "intention to terminate all hostilities forthwith."

That would enable discussions to take place to resolve "without further loss of life the matters at issue" between the rival factions, the statement said.

It said both sides acknowledged the distress the conflict had caused to many families in the Roman Catholic Irish nationalist community in Northern Ireland and did not wish to cause any more.

"Both parties accept the right of any group to organise politically, and they commit themselves

unreservedly to the resolution, by peaceful mediation, of their own present dispute and of any further disputes that may arise between them," the statement said.

A Belfast police source, insisting on anonymity, said the feud budded with two factions developing while 28 INLA suspects were in prison in Belfast. They were released last December after winning appeals against sentences passed on the sole word of a police informer.

The source said INLA leader John O'Reilly led one faction and Gerard Stenson, a dedicated socialist who believed the INLA had degenerated into criminality and should disband, led the other.

In the feuding, O'Reilly, 26, and a companion were shot dead in a hotel bar in the Irish town of Drogheda on Jan. 20. Stenson and a companion were shot dead while driving in Belfast on March 13.

Meanwhile, three bombs exploded Friday night at Dungannon, 55 kilometres west of Belfast, causing extensive damage but no injuries.

French premier prepares for U.S. visit Tuesday

PARIS (AP) — Premier Jacques Chirac will visit the United States next week and plans to tell President Ronald Reagan that France has made an irreversible shift to the right.

Mr. Chirac, head of the conservative government elected on March 16, 1986, has been bolstered lately by arrests of terrorists, but hurt by disappointing economic results.

Senior aides to Mr. Chirac said one of the premier's main points when he goes to the White House Tuesday will be that his economic changes, including sales of nationalised enterprises to private investors, enjoy widespread support.

The aides, briefing reporters on the condition they not be named, said Mr. Chirac will tell Mr. Reagan the changes are unlikely to be reversed regardless of the results in French presidential elections next year.

The premier's aides said Mr. Chirac will present French views on Soviet-American talks aimed

at reducing medium-range nuclear missiles.

Both Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Chirac have said they welcome the prospect of reduction. But both said the United States should insist on balanced and verified cuts and should demand cuts in short-range nuclear weapons and in the Soviet conventional arsenal.

The latest developments in Chad, where government troops have inflicted defeats on Libya's Col. Muammar Qadhafi, also will be discussed.

Mr. Chirac's aides said he would highlight the question of whether Col. Qadhafi might be tempted to take revenge elsewhere on the French or the Americans, the two principal suppliers of aid to Chad.

French officials said trade dispute also will be discussed, notably U.S. objections to French government financing of the Airbus, which competes with American-made aircraft.

Guerrillas blow up bridge in southern Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Separatist rebels blew up a bridge and set several houses on fire in their latest offensive in southern Bangladesh, local officials said Saturday.

They said tribal rebels from the outlawed Shanti Bahini (peace force) destroyed the Bhairab Tila Bridge Friday to cut vital road links in Khagrachhari district in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Before blowing up the bridge, the Shantis also set fire to houses belonging to Muslim settlers in nearby villages, the officials said. It was their latest offensive after a lull of more than three weeks.

Guyana-Venezuela border row 'no barrier to ties'

CARACAS (R) — Guyana President Desmond Hoyte has said his country's border dispute with Venezuela should not be an obstacle to their relations, adding that progress has been made on the issue over the past year.

At the end of a four-day visit, Mr. Hoyte told a news conference and President Jaime Lusinchi agreed to step up direct contacts to support the United Nations secretary general's office in to

resolve the dispute over the mineral-rich Essequibo region. "President Lusinchi and I have agreed that the existence of this matter should not be a barrier to cooperation between our two countries," he said.

Mr. Hoyte, told reporters the growing economic and political ties between Venezuela and Guyana can themselves create a favourable climate to help resolve the dispute.

Reagan reportedly seeks \$125 million for contras

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan may ask Congress for as much as \$125 million in 1988 military aid for Nicaraguan rebels, \$20 million more than initially expected, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said Saturday.

In a taped television interview on the Cable News Network, Mr. Abrams also said that despite strong opposition, the U.S. Congress would eventually approve the funding because lawmakers "are scared to death of the Soviet role in Central America."

U.S. support for the rebels, known as contras, fighting Managua's leftist Sandinista government is a key element of Mr. Reagan's foreign policy. Always controversial, the aid programme is believed to be in more jeopardy than ever this year in Congress because of disclosure

that the administration sold arms to Iran and profits were diverted to help the rebels.

Congressional leaders have predicted Mr. Reagan will lose his bid for 1988 funding. U.S. officials had said Mr. Reagan would seek \$150 million next year, compared to \$100 million in 1987.

But Mr. Abrams said that request was being reconsidered. "I'll say \$115 million, \$120 million, \$125 million. Those are reasonable figures," he said.

He also admitted Congress often comes close to ending aid for the rebels — and in fact halted military funding from 1984 to 1986. But he said ultimately, "they can't get themselves to do it because they're scared to death of the Soviet role in Central America."

Reagan vetoes highway bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan flung down the gauntlet before the Democratic-controlled Congress by vetoing a politically popular highway bill because it cost too much.

He called the \$87.5 billion bill "a textbook example of special interest, pork-barrel politics at work" but said he supported one provision to allow states to increase the speed limit on rural highways.

In a sign of his determination Mr. Reagan signed the veto in an Oval Office ceremony usually reserved for signing legislation into law.

Mr. Reagan adopted his confrontational stance as he sought to emerge from the scandal over the secret sale of arms to Iran. It was the first test of his political strength since he admitted his Iran policy had turned into

an arms for hostages deal and had been a mistake.

The president was flanked by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, his wife, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Vice President George Bush — instead of the smiling legislators usually at bill signings.

The highway bill — a thick document that Mr. Reagan brandished in front of photographers — now goes back to Congress where its supporters will seek to override the veto.

They require two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House. The White House has portrayed Mr. Reagan's politically risky action as an example of his determination to cut the federal budget deficit even though his spokesman Martin Fitzwater said there were not yet enough votes to sustain the veto.

Marines accused of allowing Soviet agents into embassy

WASHINGTON (R) — Two former Marine guards were accused of allowing Soviet agents into top secret sections of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, and an investigation was ordered of embassy guard procedures worldwide.

The Marine Corps charged Sergeant Clayton Lonetree, 25, with escorting Soviet agents into the embassy's communications rooms and other sensitive areas, and giving them names, addresses and photographs of U.S. intelligence agents.

It accused Lonetree of paying Corporal Arnold Bracy, 21,

\$1,000 to stand guard and try to prevent alarms from going off as Lonetree escorted Soviet agents around the embassy.

Bracy was arrested earlier this week on suspicion of espionage-related activity, the Marine Corps said, but no charges have been filed against him so far.

Late Friday Deputy Defence Secretary William Howard Taft ordered an investigation of "the methods and procedures for the selection, training, supervision and security oversight" of Marine guards at U.S. embassies worldwide.

Bonn has been buying East German prisoners since 1963

BONN, West Germany (AP) — West Germany has been quietly buying freedom for East German political prisoners since 1963, and officials said Friday that this week's release of 80 more prisoners is a sign the practice will continue.

The policy will be continued for humanitarian reasons, said one official who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity. "We do not see an end to it, or unfortunately an end to the need for it."

The policy has been criticised over the years as encouraging Communist East German authorities to imprison more people to extort cash or goods from the West German government.

But Bonn officials say the programme is a necessary humanitarian policy that helps people who have tried to escape to the West or helped others flee, not outspoken political dissidents.

They also angrily deny comparisons to the more recent reports of Iranian arms-for-Amer-

ican hostages deals that have shaken the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

"There is absolutely no comparison at all," said one well-informed government official, when asked to compare the American affair and the West German policy.

"We are not dealing with foreign terrorists, and we are not in any way coerced into (the purchases)," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity. "This is a government-to-government arrangement that has lasted for years."

Officials note most of those freed over the past 25 years were imprisoned for attempting to escape to neighbouring West Germany and would have been arrested whether the Bonn government policy existed or not.

The policy began in 1963 with the purchase of eight prisoners for 340,000 marks (\$170,000 at current exchange rates), according to a book published in 1978 by French journalist Michel Meyer.

Bonn government officials have described the book as extremely accurate.

Since the early years of the programme, West Germany has also swapped goods that are hard to find in East Germany for prisoners, Meyer wrote.

During the 1960s, the East Germans were demanding butter, coffee beans, fruit and other items to help smooth over shortages in their hard-pressed consumer sector, he said.

In the 1970s, as the East German agricultural economy began to prosper, the East Berlin government reportedly demanded more machinery, chemicals and household appliances in exchange for prisoners.

Bonn officials refused to discuss the details of Meyer's account, but acknowledge that payment is now made in goods to the East Germans.

Officials say the price varies depending on the prisoner's level of education, profession and

reason for detention, but they refuse to comment on the average cost per person.

Based on interviews with dozens of officials, Meyer estimated that between 1964 and 1975 West Germany paid 761 million marks (about \$411 million at current exchange rates) for between 10,500 and 11,000 prisoners.

He added that the per-prisoner price appeared to have declined during the late 1970s, but did not elaborate.

In December 1986, Bonn's then-minister for intra-German relations, Heinrich Windelen, said a record 2,500 prisoners were bought from East Germany in 1985.

But Mr. Windelen also said Bonn officials had told the East Germans they would not buy that many prisoners again. He estimated the number of prisoners bought in 1986 at 1,500, and said that was too many.

COLUMNS 7&8

Maria Von Trapp critically ill

STOWE, VERMONT (AP) — Maria Von Trapp, the woman whose flight from the Nazis inspired the musical Sound of Music, is critically ill and not expected to survive, her son has said. Johannes Von Trapp said his 82-year-old mother has been hospitalised since Wednesday at the Copley Hospital in Morrisville, Vermont, for gangrene of the small bowel along with heart and diabetic problems. Mrs. Von Trapp was 33 when she fled her native Austria in 1938 with her children and her husband, the late Baron Georg Von Trapp. Their story was dramatised in a book, play and Oscar-winning movie. The Trapp family singers toured Europe and the United States for several years before settling in Vermont, where the mountains and people reminded them of Austria. Their home atop a hillside in Stowe eventually became the site of a music camp and was expanded in 1962 into a popular year-round resort. Fire destroyed the lodge four days before Christmas in 1980, killing a man vacationing at the resort and forcing other guests to flee in freezing temperatures. The lodge was rebuilt and enlarged to include condominiums.

Baggage handler gets carried away

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A baggage loader, fell asleep in the cargo hold of a Nigeria Airways cargo jet, awoke in mid-flight and barged in on a bewildered pilot and his crew who thought it was a hijacking, a Nairobi newspaper reported Saturday. The daily Nation said the unidentified man, a Kenyan, had been loading the jet at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Friday afternoon when he became fatigued and decided to take a nap among some of the cargo. His colleagues did not miss him. When he awoke, the plane was three hours into the five-hour, non-stop flight to Lagos, the Nigerian capital. The daily Nation, quoting an airline source, said the man "managed to carefully and laboriously edge himself out from the cargo and walked into the cockpit. At first, the crew thought it was a hijack, as both parties stared at each other without uttering a word," the newspaper reported. "The Kenyan loader, however, allayed their fears when he explained that he was alone and described how he had ended up being flown away from home." Aeroflot Contractors, the owners of the cargo the man was loading, confirmed the incident. Company officials said they were arranging to have the worker flown back to Kenya aboard a Nigeria Airways commercial flight.

Faye Dunaway gets a divorce

LONDON (AP) — The five-year marriage of Oscar-winning actress Faye Dunaway and fashion photographer Terry O'Neill has ended in divorce. Judge Holroyd Pearce granted O'Neill, 49, an uncontested divorce from Ms. Dunaway, 45, on Thursday. He attended the brief hearing in London divorce court, but she did not. The couple, who married in Britain in 1982, had both been married before — Ms. Dunaway to rock star Peter Wolf and O'Neill to actress Vera Day. Ms. Dunaway lives in the United States with the couple's son, Liam, and O'Neill lives in London. She won the 1976 Academy Award for best actress for her role as the scheming TV executive in the satirical film "Network."

6 people charged in curry murder

SINGAPORE (R) — Two women were charged in a Singapore court Saturday with abetting four family members to murder a caretaker whose body was later cut up and cooked in a curry. No pleas were taken from Kamachi Krishnaswamy, 54, and Mary Manjee, 29, who have been remanded in custody until April 4, when the next hearing is due. Kamachi Naragathavally, a 33-year-old mother of three, and her three brothers were charged Friday with the murder of her husband, Ayakannan Marithamuthu, 38, in December 1984. The four, including a butcher, were alleged to have bludgeoned the victim to death with an iron rod in a church compound. The man's cooked remains, including pieces of skull and bones, were packed into plastic bags and thrown into several dustbins near the church, police said.

Man cuts off woman's head

COLOMBO (R) — A man used a sword to decapitate an 18-year-old woman and then carried her head to a police station, a Sri Lanka newspaper reported Saturday. The Sun said the incident occurred at Wellaw, about 160 kilometres from Colombo, when the man questioned the woman, a neighbour, about a wristwatch that was missing from his house. As the argument heated up, the man ran into his house, brought a sword and cut off the woman's head, the newspaper said. He then carried the head and the sword on a motorbike to the local police station and gave himself up.

Call of nature undoes drug smuggler

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — A drug smuggler was caught when plastic bags of cannabis he had swallowed to evade the customs were brought to light by a call of nature, a court in this Swedish port city was told. The man, whose name was not released, had smuggled the drug through customs but was then mugged and taken to hospital with stab wounds, the court heard. Doctors called police after the plastic bags reappeared during treatment. The man was convicted on drugs charges and will be sentenced at a later date, court officials said.

Paraguay stops bid to sell rare parrots

WASHINGTON (R) — Officials in Paraguay have recovered two of the last remaining parrots of an endangered species before the birds could be sold in Europe, the World Wildlife Fund has said. It said the pair of brilliant Blue Spix's Macaws were confiscated from men who planned to sell them in West Germany for \$40,000. The wildlife fund said in Washington that the birds were taken months ago from the only known Spix's Macaw nest in the world, in north eastern Brazil. They would now be sent to the zoological gardens in Sao Paulo. It said 15 of the birds were known to live in the wild in 1985 but recent surveys had found only three or four remaining.

Conductor gets honorary knighthood

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has awarded conductor Mstislav Rostropovich an honorary knighthood for his 60th birthday, the Foreign Office announced Thursday. Russian-born Rostropovich, who exiled himself to the West in 1974 and became a U.S. citizen, turned 60 on Friday. As a foreigner he may not call himself "Sir," but the title Honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire allows him to append the initials KBE to his name. Rostropovich, who is also a cellist, is music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington.

Church urged to accept polygamy

KAMPALA (R) — An Anglican bishop in Uganda has called on the church to reconsider its traditional opposition to polygamy. Bishop Christopher Senyonjo of West Buganda has said in a public lecture that many church supporters in Africa had more than one wife and regarded polygamy as part of their culture. "Our work therefore is to allow people to come to Christ, who can transform our stale and tasteless marriages into sweet wine, be they monogamous or polygamous," he said. Senyonjo belongs to a four-member commission appointed by the Anglican Consultative Council two years ago to study polygamy and the Christian family.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K 8 3 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K 10 8 2 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A K Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double East Pass ?
What action do you take?